

R E P O R T S

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO CONSIDER OF

THE POOR LAWS;

WITH

THE MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE COMMITTEE,

AND

AN APPENDIX AND INDEX.

*Ordered to be Printed,
7 December 1830, and 15 February and on April 1831.*

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BY THE LORDS COMMITTEES appointed a Select Committee to consider of the POOR LAWS, and to report their Observations thereupon from time to time to The House; and to whom was referred the Petition of *George Gunning* of Frindsbury in the County of Kent, a Lieutenant on the Half Pay of His Majesty's First Regiment of Dragoon Guards, praying their Lordships to take into Consideration the State of the POOR LAWS; and to whom was also referred the Petition of the Magistrates, Minister, Churchwarden and other Inhabitants and Parishioners of Ightham, praying for Relief from the Evils of Pauperism;

ORDERED TO REPORT,

THAT the Committee have met, and have applied themselves to the Consideration of the important subject referred to them. In pursuing this Inquiry they have found material inconvenience from the impossibility of obtaining accurate Accounts of the vast annual Sums which are raised professedly for the Support of the Poor.

The Committee are also of opinion that the variations made in the Schedules prescribed by Parliament have not only caused considerable difficulty in framing the Accounts, but also rendered it impossible to form any just comparison between the different Items of Expenditure, or any Estimate of the extent of its misapplication at different periods; and they have also found that, from the want of any general system, many months elapse before the Accounts are submitted to Parliament.

They have therefore directed a Bill to be prepared for Your Lordships' consideration, in which they have prescribed that Form of Accounts which appears to them likely to afford as much Information as it is possible to expect from the complicated nature of Parish

Expenditure;

Expenditure; and they beg to recommend that these Returns should be made to Parliament under such Regulations as Your Lordships may deem best calculated to effect the object they have in view.

The Committee have only further to state, that they have been induced to call Your Lordships' attention to such an apparently minor object at this early period of their Inquiry by the desire, if possible, to obtain a Return of the Parochial Expenditure up to next Lady-day before the close of the present Session.

THOMAS

1841

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Die Martis, 7th Decembris 1830.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *James Beard* is called in; and is Examined as follows:

YOU are a Clergyman and Magistrate of the county of Bedford?—I am.

What is the name of your parish?—Cranfield.

Can you state the Population of that parish?—About 1,350.

What number of acres are there in the parish?—About 4,000.

Is it principally pasture or ploughed land?—Two-thirds arable.

Have you many persons out of employment during the winter?—Great numbers.

What proportion?—About one-fourth, in the dead time of the winter.

Have they sufficient employment during the summer months?—Not always.

In what manner are the Poor employed during the winter-time by the parish?

—In digging gravel, and taking care of the roads.

Can you state what rate of Wages they receive when so employed by the parish?—Eight shillings per week the married men, with families; a single man, until this last week, 3s., 3s. 6d., and possibly 4s.

Are they employed by the grate when working for the parish?—No.

No difference is made between their earnings, whether they work hard or not?—Not the least.

In the case of those Labourers who are in regular employment with the Farmers, is the parish in the habit of contributing towards the support of their families?—

Always.

Do they do so of their own accord, or by order of the Magistrates?—It has been so long the custom that I cannot say from whence it arose; it has been the custom for twelve years to my knowledge.

Do these cases come before you, as a Magistrate, of such applications?—I should think sometimes from twenty to thirty in the day; not of my own parish; but I am speaking of the county at large.

Is there any scale by which you afford them relief?—One shilling and twopenny per head at present; if the scale will not make 1s. 10d. I have made it 1s. 10d.

You mean 1s. 10d. per man?—Yes, per head; generally speaking, therefore, the Overseers make it 2s. per head.

Is there any printed scale given out by the Magistrates, from their Petty Sessions or General Sessions, of the allowances?—No; but the Overseers know, according to the price of the quartern loaf. I never saw a printed scale, though I have no doubt they have a written one; but that has not been circulated by the Magistrates.

Are the Committee to understand that the Magistrates all act in the same manner you do upon that subject?—At the two Divisions that I act in that is always the case.

Are you acquainted with any parish which is peculiarly ill managed; and if so, state the circumstances?—There are about 160 labourers in the parish of Marston; generally from seventy to eighty out of employment nearly the year round. One great cause was this: at the time of the inclosure, which I think was about six or seven and twenty years ago, the parish at the time of the inclosure being about three-fourths arable, and owing to a dispute which took place between the steward of a large proprietor and the Rector, two-thirds of the parish, or more than that, was laid down into grass. A great deal of that land would be far more advantageous in a state of plough than of grass, and which having changed hands now, the property being sold, I have no doubt a great deal of it will immediately be broken up.

Can you state what quantity of acres there are in the parish?—About 4,300.

What is the gross population of the parish?—About 900.

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Are you acquainted with the rates of Wages which are paid by that parish?—The same as I stated before.

Is there any manufactory whatever in your parish?—None.

How many shillings in the pound have the Rates been?—Ten shillings.

At rack rent?—Yes, at rack rent.

Are you able to state what they were before the inclosure?—I am not.

Have they increased much within the last ten years?—I think from about 1,700*l.* to 2,400*l.* a year.

Has the number of persons unemployed in the parish increased in the like proportion?—No.

How many labourers were unemployed ten years ago?—I cannot charge my memory with that.

Are more employed now than then?—Now, far less.

To what circumstance do you attribute that?—The farmers being poorer.

I have a paper which the Overseer gave to me on Saturday night (*producing the same.*)

It appears that the Poor's Rates in 1820 were somewhat about 2,100*l.*, and in 1830, 2,392*l.* Can you state any reason for that increase?—They have progressively increased every year.

From what circumstance has that arisen?—The poverty of the farmers.

More persons have been out of employment during the last year?—Certainly.

Has the population increased within the last year?—Yes.

To what extent?—Not considerably.

Can you state what number of marriages have taken place in the parish of Marston?—I cannot.

Are you aware what was the population of the parish of Marston in the year 1810?—I am not; I think about 750.

Are the same persons acting as farmers in the parish now as were a dozen years ago?—Certainly.

To what circumstance do you attribute the poverty which you state to be increasing among them?—All the produce of grass land, butter and pork, &c. &c. have sunk 25 per cent. within the last three years.

Is it not a parish very unfit for grazing?—The majority of the land in grass there certainly is; but there is the best land in England there.

That which has been recently laid down is very unfit?—Yes.

Does not that land feel the depreciation of grazing more than the richer and better quality of soil?—Far so much so that tenants would be glad to give a higher price for the land if they could break up certain parts of their land.

From what cause is so large a proportion of the arable land laid down into pasture?—A disagreement with the Rector.

What proportion of your able-bodied Labourers in your own parish were out of employment last year?—I should think from the month of November to the end of January nearer thirty than twenty.

Out of how many?—Out of 130.

Have you adopted any means of providing employment for those Labourers?—I have endeavoured to do it.

State the circumstances under which you have done it?—My parish is an open field parish, and we have seventy or eighty acres of grass common land in it. Three years ago I called the parishioners together, being very anxious to put part of this into cultivation for the benefit of the Poor and the relief of the parish. Out of twenty-two occupiers one and twenty agreed, but the twenty-second, having the power of turning his stock in, he declared he would, and of course put a complete stop to any thing of spade husbandry. However, last week I called the parish together, and there was the same unanimity, and that individual did not disagree. The married Labourers have now got a rood of land each allotted to them on Saturday, and the single men half a rood, at the rate of 10*s.* an acre.

To work for the parish, or to work on their own account?—On their own account, under certain rules.

Can you state those rules?—They are printed, but I have not a copy with me; I can furnish it on a future day.

[*The Witness is directed to furnish a Copy of the Rules.—See Appendix.*]

Is it intended to make advances to the Labourers to enable them to cultivate this land?—I have done it myself individually out of my own pocket; that is to say,

say,

say, I have advanced 20*l.* towards fencing of the land, and given every man a new spade.

Is it in the contemplation of the parish to take any land beyond this allotment, to employ the Labourers during the winter?—Not at present.

Is it intended to employ those Labourers on the roads during the winter?—It is; and there are at this moment about thirty.

Can you state any particulars as to the expenditure upon those roads?—No; the accounts are so mixed up. The fact is, the roads are made by the Overseer. I am one of the Surveyors; but all the labour is done by the Overseer.

How are the Accounts charged in the parish books?—Each Labourer's day is put down, "At work upon the roads," or "Sifting gravel," separately.

Is this expense charged to the Stone or Way Warden's account, or to the Poor's Rates?—To the Poor's Rates.

Is there any levy made on the parish in the shape of Stone Warden's Rate?—A sixpenny one.

How is that expended?—We have had new roads to make, and therefore the rate has frequently gone in the payment of land; and we have also had two or three indictments, and of course the payment of costs have been considerable upon those; but very little of the rate has gone towards the actual labour of making the roads.

Can you state any particulars as to the employment of Labourers on the roads in the parish of Kempston?—The last year in the mere gravel-digging that parish expended 750*l.*; and I am sure I am not saying too much when I state I could get the same gravel dug for 50*l.*

Can you state what the wages paid to the Labourers were in that parish for that work?—The married men 8*s.* per week; making up their families to the amount I stated before.

Have there been many marriages of late years in the parish of Cranfield?—There have been only two within the last eight months.

What bench of Magistrates do you attend?—Woburn and Ampthill.

If a man gets 1*s.* 10*d.* per head per week for his family, is it the practice of the Magistrates to order further relief?—I have not done so until within the last three weeks.

Are there many Labourers and their families who existed previously to the last three weeks on 1*s.* 10*d.* per head?—Last Wednesday I went, according to the direction of the Lord Lieutenant, to swear in special constables. I met ten Farmers, whom I swore in; they had brought seventy-four Labourers also to be sworn in. Upon the Labourers being asked at the door, they would not come in. I went out to them, and asked them the reason; they said they wanted food: upon which I selected four of the most intelligent of the party. I asked them to go into a private room. I inquired the character of the men from the Farmers; and they said they were very honest industrious men. They gave me the earnings of themselves, their wives and their children; they did not quite come to 2*s.* per head per week of the four families; they were the best and most industrious Labourers in the parish. I went into the Farmers, and told them it was morally impossible to expect those Labourers to go on at that rate of wages, and I trusted they would not think me unreasonable in begging of them to give them 2*s.* 6*d.* a head per week; that is to say, a married Labourer to have 9*s.*; a single man of twenty, 6*s.* per week; a single man of eighteen, 5*s.* per week; that if a married Labourer has 9*s.*, and has two or three children, they would make it up 2*s.* 6*d.* per head; if there were six of them, that would be 15*s.* per week. The Farmers having consented, I went out to the Labourers and spoke to them; and I never saw a body of people so thankful in my life. This is the parish of Liddington.

You stated that many of the men are employed on the road in some of the parishes in your neighbourhood?—There are.

Are they so employed for the purpose of giving them employment, or because the roads require that number to repair them?—Merely to keep them employed.

In your own parish, are the arable lands in as high a state of cultivation now as they were ten years ago?—They are.

Notwithstanding the poverty of the farmers?—I think the arable land is. I am speaking only of my own parish, when I say that.

Are you acquainted with any parish where land has been cultivated by the spade by the Poor for any considerable time?—The Duke of Bedford has a

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parish, about seven miles from me, in which he has kindly allotted a quantity of land to the Poor for two years.

Can you state what the effect of that allotment has been?—Exceedingly beneficial to the Poor.

Has it had any effect in the diminution of Rates in those parishes?—I cannot answer that question; it is merely hearsay; but I have been told that it has.

To whom is the rent paid for the common land allotted to the Poor?—The parish account; but there is only just as much as will cover the outgoings.

You state in the parish of Cranfield there are now about one-fourth of the Labourers out of employment?—Yes.

Can you state how long that has been the case?—It is always the case nearly from the middle of November to February.

For how many years has that been the case?—I can answer for the last twelve years.

Do you know as to that parish before that time?—I do not.

You do not know whether there are more out of employment now than there were previously?—Certainly there are.

How do you account for there being more out of employment now than when you first became acquainted with the parish?—The farmers are poorer.

When did you begin to perceive that the poverty of the farmers had diminished the number of agricultural labourers?—It certainly has been very materially augmented since the Currency question.

Can you state the proportion?—No.

Yet you say the lands are equally well cultivated?—Yes.

Are there any waste lands thrown out of cultivation?—No; the truth is there is a great deal more labour got for the money.

The poor people work cheaper?—Yes; the poor people work cheaper—a great deal cheaper, the competition of labour is so great.

Have you formed any opinion whether there has been a proportionate diminution in the price of articles supplied to the Poor?—I think there has in my neighbourhood.

Then they are equally as well off, in your opinion, with the low wages as with high?—Oh dear no.

If there has been a proportionate diminution in the price of articles which the Poor require to that in the wages of labour, how do you account for their not being in the same state?—One great cause is, that the lace trade was an exceedingly good one, and now a woman must work very hard to get a halfpenny an hour, sixpence a day.

You say there has been no land thrown out of cultivation that you are aware of in this parish?—None that I am aware of.

Are there any other reasons for the Labourers being worse off now than when the wages were higher and provisions dearer?—Formerly the Labourer could get employment, now he cannot at any price.

Have you any means of collecting from the farmers, whether, considering the present price of produce, they should be able to continue these payments which you say is so good-naturedly proposed by them?—They in a body told me that they could not; and my answer to them was this, "Then as the Labourers have 'come to me in a body,' as they had ninety in a body at my house, 'you must 'go in a body to your landlords.'"

Have cottage rents fallen in proportion to the fall in the other necessities of the Labourer?—Decidedly not; and nothing oppresses the Labourer more than the present price of cottage rents.

From what cause do you suppose cottage rents have not fallen in proportion to the other payments of the Labourers?—That as population has increased, the cottages have not increased in number so much, and therefore there has been a demand for them, and consequently a shilling a week is almost the least rent which a Labourer can get a cottage for.

Does a family of five persons consume as much corn now as a family of the same number and of the same ages did fifteen or twenty years ago?—That is a question that I cannot answer. Previously to twelve years ago I hardly knew a Labourer.

Take it twelve years ago?—No, I do not think he does.

Can you say in what proportion that consumption has diminished?—I cannot.

There

There is land laid down to grass in the parish adjoining you, does that form a large proportion of the land in the parish?—Three-fourths.

Is that owing in some degree to the demand for tithe?—That was the original cause, I am told; but it is six and twenty years ago.

If the land was not liable to tithe, would much of the land in that parish be cultivated in corn, and more Labourers be required, and more capital employed?—I think that would be the case.

Is the quantity of corn grown diminished in England generally, as far as your observation extends?—I should decidedly say, as to the whole of Bedfordshire, the county is very much improved in agriculture, and the crops much better within the last twelve years, because labour is so cheap that it can be got for less than half the price.

That increased produce has arisen from the application of increased labour?—Yes, certainly.

Is it not your opinion that greater application to the soil of Bedfordshire would continue to increase the productiveness of it?—I have not the least doubt of that.

Is not your opinion that if the occupiers throughout Bedfordshire had capital and means to apply the labour to the cultivation of the land, that would not exhaust the entire disposable labour even at this moment?—I have not the least doubt of that.

If you are rightly understood, all the present difficulties, as applicable to the employment of labour, would cease if the occupiers had sufficient capital?—Certainly.

Are you of opinion, that, having sufficient capital, the farmers could use that capital profitably in the employment of all those Labourers?—Certainly. I have never found the parish in which the whole of the Labourers could not be employed beneficially, if the farmers had capital, and the labour were rightly distributed.

You mean that that could be so employed as to produce to the farmer a sum equivalent to the increased cost of employing so many more Labourers?—Yes, certainly; a profitable application of capital.

How do you account for the diminution of the capital of the farmer?—The increase of Poor's Rates, and that from the increase of taxation upon property.

To what period do you refer in that answer?—Formerly a bushel of corn supported a Labourer; he got as much per week as the price of a bushel of corn; but owing to all the exciseable articles being so heavy, soap, candles, tea, and various articles of consumption, of course he requires more than the value of a bushel of corn now.

What periods of time are you comparing?—I certainly cannot state the date.

Do you speak of fifteen years back?—Longer than that.

What is the general food of the Labourers in your part of the country?—Nothing but bread.

What have they to drink?—Water.

They have no cheese?—No.

No tea?—Very little. I have watched one and twenty men dine together; I have seen twenty of them eat bread with what we call seam, which is a little fat rendered down.

No potatoes?—No.

Where did you see them dine together?—At the gravel pit.

What have they in their cottages when they dine there?—They very rarely do.

What have their families?—From what I have seen, I should think, the women, bread and tea.

What is price of the tea the cottagers use?—I cannot say.

What was the food of Labourers twelve years ago?—I was then living in the north of England.

How long ago is it since you first became acquainted with this parish?—Twelve years.

What was the food of the Labourers then?—A little pork, frequently.

Is that the only difference between their present food and that they had at that time?—The farmers, and almost the whole of the agricultural persons, lived entirely on pork in that district.

Twelve years ago, they had the addition of pork to their bread, and now they have none?—Yes.

Can you state what the Labourers' wages in this parish were twelve years ago?—I gave them 10s. 6d.

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To the same description of men to whom you gave 10s. 6d. what do you give now?—Eight shillings up to the last week.

Has there been any difference in the price of clothing of the Labourers within the last twelve years?—Certainly.

Has it increased or diminished?—Diminished very materially.

Is there any other article in which the price paid by the Labourer now has been diminished within the last twelve years; pork, for instance?—Certainly; but he does not get any; if he did he would pay twenty-five per cent. less than he would then.

Is there any other article in common use with the Labourer which he can get cheaper than he did twelve years ago?—Yes.

Is the sum the Labourer gets now sufficient to purchase as much of the necessities of life as the 10s. 6d. he got twelve years ago?—As far as the man is concerned; the great evil arises from the poverty of the woman, she earns so little by her lace.

Then the man gets a rate of wages which will procure for him as many necessities of life now as he had twelve years ago?—I do not think he is quite so well off, but there is not so very great a difference in the man.

The poverty that has fallen on the lower class of persons in that parish arises from the want of employment to the women and children, which they had twelve years ago?—Yes, in a great measure.

Are the men in as constant work now as they were twelve years ago?—Nothing like it; it is the competition of labour which has produced that change.

To whom do the cottages generally belong in your parish?—A variety of persons.

Are they generally persons to whom the greater part of the land belongs?—No.

Are they cottages built on speculation?—They are cottages built on speculation. Are they let to the farmers to lodge their Labourers in, or do the Labourers take them from the persons owning them?—The Labourers invariably.

Are there no cottages attached to the farms?—None.

Is it the custom in your parish for the rents of those cottages to be paid out of the Poor's Rate?—It is sometimes.

In such cases the occupier is excused from paying rates at all?—He is.

What description of persons are they to whom those cottages belong?—Joiners, bricklayers, small tradesmen, frequently speculate, so that by expending 30 £ to a cottage they are able to get 50 s. or 3 £ a year.

They charge a rent to pay them for the expenditure of the capital on the cottage, whatever it may be?—Yes.

Has any attempt been made to lower those rents?—No, none.

You spoke of the parish of Liddington, and your having recommended to the farmers to go to the landlords in a body to have their rents lowered; can you state what the average rent per acre in that parish is?—No, I cannot.

Do you know whether it is considered as a highly-rented parish, or otherwise?—I believe it is highly rented.

When you proposed this to the farmers, what answer did they make?—They said, they must and would; and that the Labourers cause was theirs.

Do you what the rent of that parish was twelve years ago?—No; rents are generally kept secret.

Do you believe, generally speaking, that rents have been raised within the last twelve years in your parish?—I know that in the case of one purchase, which was 12,000 £, the individual borrowed 6,000 £ to purchase land that he gave 12,000 £ for, and I think he would have difficulty to make more than the interest of the 6,000 £.

Take an instance of land held twelve years ago by an individual in that parish; is the rent now as high as it was twelve years ago?—I do not know.

Can you state whether land in your own parish held twelve years ago on a certain rent is let now at the same rent?—Certainly not; the rent has diminished.

To what extent?—One-fourth.

Is the amount of the money raised for Poor's Rates within your parish more than it was twelve years ago?—More.

Can you give the Committee any idea of the proportion?—I think at about eleven to fifteen.

You have said that you employed the Poor, not employed by the farmers, on the roads,

roads, getting gravel, and so on; are they paid by the Way Warden or the Overseer of the Poor?—By the Overseer of the Poor.

Is the work done on the roads necessary for the proper maintenance of the roads?—Not altogether.

Are your roads in a better condition now than they were twelve years ago?—A great deal.

Is the sum of money which has been raised for the repair of the roads within your parish greater now than it was twelve years ago?—The difference between a three penny and a six-penny rate.

Is that difference between the three-pence and six-pence sufficient to pay for the additional labour employed?—Nothing like it.

In fact, supposing your roads to be in their former state, and to have been indicted, would you not be obliged to levy a considerably larger proportion of money for the highway rate than you were accustomed to do in the parish at that time?—Certainly; we have done the work of two indictments by that labour.

Is that generally the case in Bedfordshire, that your roads are very much improved within the last twelve years?—Beyond any county in England.

Were not your roads twelve years ago in a very bad state indeed?—Certainly. So as to render communications throughout the county very inconvenient?—Certainly.

Can you state what proportion of money raised by the Poor Rate is expended upon this labour that is employed upon the roads?—I cannot.

Can you state to the Committee whether the money actually employed in the relief of the Poor independently of that paid for the work upon the roads, is greater now than it was twelve years ago in your parish?—Certainly greater.

In any considerable proportion?—Certainly.

Do not houses built by joiners and carpenters, pay nine or ten per cent. interest?—Yes.

Do they go on increasing the number of them?—Yes; and I told the Labourers in a body, that if they came to the farmers for an increase of pay, they must go to the landlords and ask for a reduction of their rent.

You have a greater number of Labourers in the parish than can meet with beneficial employment?—Certainly.

Could not the roads have been put in the state they now are at much less expense than they have cost by the employment of paupers?—Wonderfully so.

Therefore, in point of fact, the paupers are employed upon the roads, not because the roads require repair, but because the farmers are anxious to give employment to the people, who, if not employed upon the roads, would have no employment at all?—Just so.

Are not the roads in a better state than it is necessary they should be for the use of the public, in consequence of this application of labour?—I think a road can scarcely be too good.

What rate of wages have single men of eighteen received within the last three years when employed on the roads?—Three shillings a week.

Do you think it possible that a person of that age can subsist, with tolerable comfort on 3*s.* a week?—Certainly not.

What rate of wages do they now receive?—I asked the farmers, without compelling them as a Magistrate, to increase those of eighteen to 5*s.*, and those of twenty to 6*s.* a week.

Do you consider such increase of wages to be sufficient?—They were very well satisfied.

Have all the wages been increased in that parish, for single men as well as married men?—They have.

What is the general state of farmers in that parish; is it conceived to be prosperous, or the reverse?—Quite the reverse.

Do you conceive it possible that the farmers will be able to pay those increased wages of labour to those employed by them, or on the roads?—Certainly not.

Do you happen to know whether in your parish the farmers pay with difficulty the present amount of Poor's Rates?—The greatest possible; that is to say that several of them are summoned every time the Rate is claimed.

Are you able to form any judgment as to the diminution of rental of that parish arising from the increased wages of labour?—I should think one-fourth.

You were understood to state that the general rate of cottage rents in your neighbourhood was from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* per year?—Yes.

Rev. J. Beard.

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Seldom higher?—A Labourer would not think of occupying one higher.
You stated that in some instances those rents are paid out of the Poor's Rates?—Yes, sometimes.

The expense of building such cottages seldom exceeds 30*l.* probably?—That, I conceive, is the outside expense.

So that the rent asked is not more than ten per cent. on the expense of building such a cottage?—No; there are also the repairs going on.

Will not the diminution of five-and-twenty per cent. upon the rental occasion a great reduction in the expenditure and consumption of the landholders in that parish?—There are no resident individuals in the parish but the farmers.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Thomas Law Hodges, Esquire, a Member of the House of Commons, attending, is called in; and Examined as follows:

T. L. Hodges,
Esq. M.P.

YOU are one of the Members of Parliament for the county of Kent?—I am.
In what part of Kent do you reside?—In the Weald of Kent.

Are you an acting Magistrate of the Division in which you reside?—I am.

Can you inform the Committee what the state and condition of the Labourers in that Division was during the last winter, as compared with any former period ten or twelve years ago?—Very little different from what it was ten or twelve years ago.

Are there more out of employment now than there were ten or twelve years ago?—Not so many.

The question refers to the period previous to the disturbances?—Yes. I will explain the reason; because, about four or five years ago, I put in practice emigration to a very great extent from my parish.

Where did you send them to?—They all went, with the exception of one family, to New York.

Will you state the system you pursued upon that occasion?—I found the parish burthened with a number of persons who could not get employment at any part of the year; and when the autumn came, and throughout the winter, there were from thirty to eighty persons out of work in the parish in which I lived. I considered that was an intolerable evil. I was very desirous of knowing whether the Government intended to adopt any mode of national emigration; and finding that it was not likely to be the case, and finding also that the continuance of such a body of unemployed persons would, at no very distant day, consume all the produce of the parish, that there would be nothing left for rent or tithe or any thing else, it appeared to me that an immediate remedy was necessary to relieve the parish of that burthen, and in the course of two years 149 persons emigrated to America, men, women and children; and in consequence of that we have now comparatively but few persons out of work, and our Poor Rates have materially decreased.

What proportion do the 149 persons bear to the whole population of the parish?—The parish contained 1,745 inhabitants at the time of the Census in 1821.

Were the persons you sent out to America the best or the worst Labourers in your parish?—As soon as that measure was agreed to, I offered to the parish to advance all the money; this, of course, did away with the difficulties on the part of the farmers, who would have been distressed to have provided it; and they all concurred in assuring me that the money should be paid by regular instalments, and that they would also pay me four per cent. interest for the money until paid off. This Michaelmas, I believe, the whole will be paid off.

What did it cost?—£. 1,197. 4*s.* 3*d.* This is a paper containing the sums, showing what proportions emigrated in the years ending April 1827, 1828, 1829 and 1830; those in 1829 and 1830 were very few indeed; only four, in fact. The principal emigration was in 1827 and 1828.

Have you any objection to put in that paper?—Not the least. I wish to explain that the sum we agreed on for repayment was at the rate of 1*s.* per head per week, which we considered was less than what they would have cost the parish if they had remained with us.

The Paper is delivered in, and read; and is as follows:

BENEFICES

BENEDDEN EMIGRATION ACCOUNTS—County of Kent.

Showing the Number of Persons who have emigrated in the Years ending April 1827, 1828, 1829 and 1830; the Average Cost per Head; the Total Amount of Expense (which Amounts were borrowed by the Parish Officers at the Rate of Four per Cent. per Annum); the Sums repaid, at the Rate of 1s. per Head per Week; the Annual Expenditure for the Relief of the Poor from Lady-day 1824 to Lady-day 1830, including Emigration Expenses; and the Annual Expenditure, exclusive of Emigration Expenses.

Year Lady-day	Number of Persons who Emigrated.	Average Cost per Head.	Total Amount of Expenses. The Money Borrowed.	SUMS Repaid on account, to Liquidate Debt.	Annual Expenditure, including Emigration Expenses.	Annual Expenditure, exclusive of Emigration Expenses.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1825	Mrs. Warren. Child.	- - -	- - -	- - -	2,975 19 6	—
1826	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	2,922 5 8	—
1827	29 10 19	9 6 5½	534 12 10	85 3 6	2,200 7 5	2,215 3 11
1828	25 22 40	7 8 1	621 17 4	112 6 6	2,427 15 9	2,285 9 3
1829	- - -	- - -	- - -	217 8 -	2,325 12 11	2,208 10 11
1830	2 2 -	10 1 9½	40 7 1	251 11 -	2,124 11 3	1,693 - 2
	56 34 59		1,197 4 3	865 3 -		
	Men - - - 56 Women - - 34 Children under 14 Years - 59 Total Number 149					

The Assessed Annual Rental of the parish of Benenden is £3,300.

The sums repaid in the year ending Lady-day 1830 should have been 335*l.* 8*s.*; but, in consequence of the great difficulty experienced by the Overseers in collecting the Rates, owing to the severe losses sustained by the occupiers from the blight in hops and corn, the rot in sheep, &c. &c. in 1829, the rate of repayment during the six winter months was reduced from 1*s.* to 6*d.* per head per week. It is now generally admitted, even by those who at first opposed the measure of emigration, that the parishioners would have cost the parish more than 1*s.* per week if they had remained at home, independently of the increase in the numbers of parishioners which might be expected to take place from so many young couples. Those who emigrated in 1827 embarked at London for New York, U. S. Those in 1828 at Liverpool, also for New York, except one family that preferred going to Canada.

An Assistant Overseer was appointed in 1824, who has continued in office to the present time, and who has acted on an uniform system of relief during the whole time; consequently the great decrease in the rates must have been occasioned by the decrease in the surplus funds. During a great portion of the years 1825-6 there were from seventy to eighty able-bodied men on the parish books, for want of employ. Since, fifty-six of them have emigrated, it is a rare circumstance to have any out of work, except in severe weather, which is a convincing proof that too surplus hands will generally create idleness.

The greater part of the land in Benenden is occupied by tenants at will; and notwithstanding the heavy expenses which have been incurred by the emigration system, the foregoing figures show that all rate-payers in the parish will be very considerable gainers, even if they quit their respective occupations immediately the whole debt is discharged, or if they had quitted at any period since 1827.

Bensted, June 1830.

Thos. Law Hodge.

Had you any assistance from Government?—No.

What were the inducements offered to each individual?—As soon as we had settled among ourselves the mode in which the money should be advanced and repaid, the next point was to propose it to the men; and I think I may say that nearly the whole population volunteered instantly to such an extent, that it appeared practicable and easy to comprehend in the number of emigrants every labourer of indifferent character in the parish. To this proposition I instantly and

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decidedly objected; observing, that if this is to be a benefit to the men, the good man has a better right to it than the bad character, and my impression was, (having remarked this parish for very nearly eight and forty years, and for a great many years of that period we had not what I may call bad characters), that if the number of workmen in the parish were reduced down to such an amount as to balance the demand and the supply, those called bad characters, by having plenty of work, would become as good as any others, and I am happy to say that has turned out to be the fact generally.

Have you heard how those men, who have been sent out by that parish, have prospered in America?—Extremely well. I ought to add that three men came back the following year; one of them was a man who had not his health at all; the country disagreed with him; and two men took to drinking when they got to America. The Americans do not at all approve of drunken men, and they had strong hints from them that they might as well come back; and when they returned, the Overseer came to me in great alarm, and stated that three of the men were come back again, and he apprehended that more would follow. I said it was not at all likely; for the letters they sent show that they are not only quite comfortable, but are delighted with their situation, and are strongly urging their friends to come out to them; the fact is, that they are all doing exceedingly well. I recommended to the Overseer to employ those men, and to give them the same wages as others were receiving; but that he should put this to them, that as they had received so much money from the parish, at their own request, to take them to America, the parish would and should receive that money, at the rate of a shilling a week, till that debt was paid. The men looked a little grave about it at first, but they agreed to it. The money was stopped, and I believe to a great extent liquidated. I thought that was quite in the spirit of the Act made some years ago, brought in, I think, by Mr. Sturges Bourne, authorizing loans to be made to men to assist them in business. Nobody could compel those men to go; but it was reasonable, that if, by their misconduct or changing their minds, they came back to be a burthen, that they should repay the money.

What is the rate of wages in your parish?—The rate of wages was 12s. a week till two years ago. The farmers then became so distressed that we reduced them to half-a-guinea a week, with the promise, that if times mended they should be raised again. Accordingly, about six weeks or two months ago, long before any disturbances took place in the county of Kent, we happened to have a remarkably good hop year in the Weald of Kent; the farmers had received more money than they had for several years past; and I proposed to them that they should redeem their pledge to the men, and give them 12s. a week. There was not the least objection; they were raised to 12s. a week, which they are now receiving.

Have any of the men in your parish joined the illegal assemblies?—About a fortnight or three weeks since I had notice of their intention of assembling, and I was requested to come down. I could not go, having particular business in London; but I wrote down to my son and a neighbouring Magistrate, to request that they would attend, and state to the men that I thought it was rather unreasonable and rather ungrateful to make a disturbance, especially in my absence; that I recommended them to disperse, and wait till I came down, which would be in about a week. They did meet that morning, and an extract of that letter was read to them. They said it was very reasonable, and they all went home; but about five o'clock in the same evening men came in from other parishes, and pressed them away from their work. They surrounded a public house in the village where my rent audit is held. Almost all the tenants had paid their rent and gone away; but there were five or six left with my son and Mr. Forbes, a neighbouring Magistrate; at this time there were perhaps seventy or eighty men assembled inside and outside the house. Some of them were in liquor, and they made a great noise, and at last forced the door, and drove my son and the other Magistrate, and the five or six tenants who remained, into the corner of the room, where they held them at bay some time. My son said he had my directions not to comply with any demand they might make, and that no force whatever should induce him to swerve from those directions; that they had better quietly disperse and go home, or some serious consequences might arise. He was very firm about it, and contrived to get a note through the window to his servant, who rode off with it to a neighbouring Magistrate, who, in an hour's time, came with assistance. The mob was instantly dispersed, and five men sent to Maidstone to take their trial.

trials for a riot. I went down four or five days afterwards, and found the men very much ashamed of what had taken place, urging in extenuation that they were forced by others to quit their work; and finding they were really ashamed of what had occurred, and anxious to evince their sincerity, I swore in upwards of 100 of them as special constables immediately, and all the farmers in the parish.

Have you any spade husbandry in your parish?—We have had, but only at times of the year when men have been out of work.

Do you give large gardens to any of them?—They all have gardens; but very large gardens or small lots of land in that neighbourhood do not benefit the Labourer, for the land in general is so stiff that it can be worked only with horse power.

Are you aware of the rent the Labourers pay for their cottages?—They vary in almost every parish. In mine they are generally at 1s. a week; there may be a few as high as 1s. 6d., and possibly 2s. I have heard, in other parishes, of some as high as 2s. and even 2s. 6d. a week, generally.

Are the cottages in your parish your own property?—A great many of them are my own property, and they are let at 1s. a week. A great part of them have three bed-rooms, which I think to be requisite to the decent living of a family.

Have they gardens to them?—Yes; as much as they can cultivate well.

Have there been instances in your parish, or in the neighbouring parishes, of rents being paid out of the Poor Rates?—In my own parish it is not the case; it was formerly; but that system has been put an end to, and I believe in almost all the neighbouring parishes.

As a Magistrate, have you been accustomed to order the Overseer to give relief, unless the Pauper is residing in his own parish?—No.

In the division in which you act, what is the usual allowance to a man and his family per head a week?—That depends upon the number of his family. For 12s. a week he is expected to maintain himself, his wife, and, I think, three children. They have a great deal of piece-work, as it is called, in that district; in fact, they often earn as much money in winter as they do in summer. There is a great deal of wood-cutting; they earn 2s. 3d. or 2s. 6d. a day at that work. In the summer there is timber-felling, bark-stripping, and there is hop-work; that, though the wages may be called 12s. a week, a good Labourer does not earn so little as 14s. or 15s. a week all the year round, when in regular employ.

Is it the practice of that part of the county to employ men on the roads, who have no other employment?—A certain number.

In winter?—Very few. That district does not supply stones; the roads there are a good deal made by sea-beach, which requires no manual labour; but in the different divisions of the county where stone is dug, I am sorry to say, they are employed in great numbers; and there is one practice particularly, which I always reprobated, and when I had the honour of being the Chairman of Quarter Sessions in West Kent, in charges to the Grand Juries, I frequently took occasion to deprecate the practice of employing boys to break stones on turnpike-roads. If persons are out of employment, it would be much better to take the middle-aged and old men, and let the boys be distributed among the farmers, to learn the farming business; for by thus neglecting the rural education of the boys, parishes will not in future have a Labourer able to build a haystack.

In your parish, does a single man universally receive the same wages as a married man with a family?—I believe, universally. I make no difference; I pay them all alike, unless they are out of work; if work is slack, it is open then to farmers to make a bargain with a single man for half-a-guinea a week.

Are there many men in your parish out of work?—Very few indeed; I believe none now, nor have there been all the year.

Generally speaking, in your parish, a man receives wages according to the work he has performed, and not according to the family he has to maintain?—Just so.

You have removed the excess of Pauper Population by emigration; what means have you taken to prevent that void being supplied by an increase of numbers?—In some instances cottages have been taken down; but I have relied more upon the general improvement of the condition of the Labourers, to induce them to take their situation into consideration, and not to engage in those early and inconsiderate marriages, which, while we were oppressed by a great amount of population, and consequent want of employment, were constantly taking place.

Were the cottages more thickly inhabited before this than they are now?—Yes.

You have endeavoured to keep one family to one cottage since that?—I think

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1836.

T. L. Hodges,
Esq. M.P.

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that has been more the practice latterly, but without any particular system adopted on my part or any body's else.

What have been the wages in the western part of Kent?—I cannot answer that question accurately, they have varied so much. In the line of country between Maidstone and Ashford, they have been very low, as I have been informed.

Has there been a difficulty to find employment even at those low wages?—Very much so. I have seen, in the above district, (which is a horrible and disgusting sight,) men harnessed to waggons drawing stones. I do not mean that that was continued long, but I have seen it in travelling along that line of the county. I believe it has been discontinued entirely, and for some time past.

Is it the practice in your parish for men to receive larger sums for harvest work?—Yes.

You do not include those sums in the 12s. per week?—No; when I mentioned, as piece-work, the wood-cutting, the timber-felling and hop-work, I ought to have included the harvest-work.

What do they receive for harvest-work?—It varies according to the stoutness of the crop.

When Labourers are hired for the harvest month, what wages do they receive?—They are not hired for the harvest month; the work is put out to them by the piece, and we have no strangers come into the parish for harvest work; it is done by our own people.

Do the Magistrates make use of a table of bread money, or a system of that kind, in regulating wages?—No, not at all; that was the system of relief acted on during the very distressed times ten or twelve years ago, but the magistrates found it so full of objection that they discontinued it, leaving each parish to regulate its own poor according to its own circumstances, reserving to themselves a right of appeal, if any party were aggrieved.

They do not interfere indirectly to regulate the price of wages?—No, certainly not.

In the paper you have put in you state the assessed annual rental of the parish at 3,200*l.*; do you mean at a rack rent?—Yes; I should say now quite a rack rent; I do not believe that now any farm in my parish would let at a greater sum. Before the emigration took place it would have been difficult to have procured responsible tenants for farms who would engage to give a rent equal to the sum at which they were assessed in the Poor Book.

In the year 1825, the annual expenditure appears to have been 2,975*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.* being at the rate of about 18*s.* in the pound on the rack rent?—Yes, that was the case, and it has been as high as 19*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

Exclusive of emigration expenses, you have now reduced the whole expenditure to 1,933*l.*?—According to the Return made up to Easter 1830.

That being about 13*s.* in the pound?—Yes.

In your parish have the women and children any employment?—They have in the hop season, when they sometimes earn a considerable sum of money; a few also get work in the woods in the winter, by scraping the bark from the green hop-poles.

They are able to earn something towards the maintenance of their family?—Yes, occasionally.

Can you give the Committee any idea of the amount in the course of a year?—No, it varies very much. If a woman has a sucking child, she cannot do much. Here and there a woman is in circumstances able to turn out to work, but I should say they do not in general turn out to work as they do in some other counties.

You said that in your cottages you gave three bed-rooms?—Yes, in almost every one.

What number of sitting-rooms?—A kitchen and a wash-house.

Of what materials are those cottages composed?—Brick and timber; they are extremely good cottages.

Can you give an idea of the cost of that description of cottages?—If built new, upwards of 100*l.*; from 100*l.* to 150*l.*

They pay you a shilling a week rent?—Yes; it is a very losing concern.

How much garden ground do you give them with each cottage?—Quite as much as they can cultivate well. The poor, in my part of the country, do not covet large gardens; if they have sufficient to supply them with vegetables, they do not want more; the ground is too stiff to make it at all desirable.

At the rents those persons pay for your cottages, it would not be worth any person's

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person's while to build a cottage on speculation?—Not at those rents; but no doubt it would be a most desirable thing if the mode of rating cottages could be altered by law, and landlords should be made liable to the rate, and not the tenant; for in a great number of instances I have known speculating carpenters and bricklayers, who have built, out of barracks pulled down, a parcel of cottages, relying on the Poor's Rate for the rent, and demanding high rents. I think it would check it if the landlord were made liable for the rate, and that the landlord should not have the power of appeal against the assessment, unless he could show that the sum at which he is assessed is greater than the amount of rents paid or agreed to be paid.

Are there any cottages in your parish built by the description of persons to whom you allude?—No, I do not think there are.

Are you owner of the whole parish, or what proportion?—More than half.

Is the rest of the parish held by owners of considerable properties or small freeholds?—With the exception of a farm belonging to Lord Cornwallis, I believe the lands are held either by the farmers themselves or persons not having any considerable estate.

Have those landed persons whom you have named any cottages upon their properties?—Yes.

What sort of rent do the tenants of those cottages pay?—I hardly know what; I believe they have been generally reduced, for the rents required formerly bore no proportion to the reduced wages the Labourers were receiving.

Have the rents received by landlords in your parish been decreased within the last twelve years?—Very considerably.

Can you state the proportion?—I think my own rents have been reduced forty per cent.

Have you any reason to think that the rents of other landlords in your parish have been equally decreased?—I have no doubt of it, but I cannot state the amount exactly.

Had there been any reductions of rent in your parish from the end of the war to twelve years ago?—I really forget the precise periods when these reductions took place.

You cannot tell whether the rents, as they were twelve years ago, stood at the war price?—I forget the exact time when the first abatement took place; it was done by a per-centage; ten per cent., and fifteen per cent., and so on.

And abatements have been made at different times, amounting together to forty per cent?—Yes.

Have you any difficulty now in obtaining your rent?—This Michaelmas is the first rental for several years past that has been paid without arrears, nearly amounting to one-third in some years, and one-half in others.

With respect to an able-bodied Labourer, what wages did he receive twelve years ago?—Twelve shillings a week.

What does the same description of man receive now?—The same.

Do you speak to merely your own parish, or others in your neighbourhood?—My own parish.

Is the rate of wages much higher in your parish than in the neighbouring parishes?—No.

Then an able-bodied man in your district can obtain 12s. a week?—Yes.

Has not the price of many of the articles which the Labourer has to purchase decreased very considerably within the last twelve years?—Yes.

Then in point of fact an able-bodied Labourer is not worse off now than he was twelve years ago?—Where he can get constant work.

Supposing there be only labour in a parish sufficient to maintain ten men, whereas there are twenty Labourers in want of employment, have not the wages of the ten men so employed been decreased in that parish?—No doubt.

Can you state the proportion in which in such parish the wages have been decreased?—Not accurately; I have heard of various sums, even down so low as 5s. 6d. per week for an able-bodied Labourer.

For such a man as you would pay 12s. a week for in your parish?—Yes.

What is the general food of the Labourers in your parish?—Wheaten bread of the finest quality.

Do they eat no meat?—The people who get the wages of the amount I have stated, and are constantly employed, do get meat.

Are the women employed in making lace, or any business they can carry on in their own houses?—I know of no domestic manufacture whatever in that district.

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What do the women live upon generally?—They live as the men do; but all drink tea, the men and all; but they would drink beer if the malt tax was taken off; they would then brew their own beer, which would be a decided advantage, and they would have the grains of that malt for their pig, which would be a considerable additional benefit to the Labourer.

Since you have had recourse to the emigration system in your parish, have the morals of your parish improved?—Certainly, and I prove that in this way; before that took place, petty thefts, and even considerable ones, were constantly taking place; since that time they have been very rare.

Has any other parish in your neighbourhood followed your example?—No.

Have you pressed it upon the other parishes to do so?—They are all desirous of it; but the difficulties are so great that they have not been able to accomplish it. One of the principal difficulties arises, not from unwillingness of the parties to go, but from the great hazard that attends the advance of money; for, as your Lordships know, it is an illegal measure altogether, and there is no sort of security for the repayment of the money beyond that of a good feeling of those benefited by it, viz. the Rate-payers.

Any person objecting to that employment of the Poor Rates would prevent it?—Yes; and the person would lose all his money. But in my parish any farmer quitting the parish at any one year after the emigration began would have been a gainer, because the Rates were falling all the time.

You attribute it to a fear of that sort that your example has not been followed by other parishes?—Yes; because I know of instances of men who have been willing to advance the money, but when the parish were called together some were unwilling to concur.

You have spoken of the state of labour in your own parish; is there full employment in the surrounding parishes?—Just at this moment there is, but all in consequence of the riotous assemblages which have taken place, by which many parishes have been compelled to agree to certain terms with the Labourers which it is manifest they cannot fulfil. Unless these extorted treaties, by which these parishes have been compelled to raise wages to 2s. 3d. a day, and 1s. 6d. a week for a third child, (which, in a parish next to mine, makes a difference of 1,200*l.* in the course of the year,) can be annulled,—and this ought to be done by mutual consent, as it is for mutual benefit,—I know very well these parishes will become absolutely insolvent.

You say that the Labourers have not been so fully employed in some of the adjoining parishes; has not that occasioned an immense increase of crime in those parishes?—In the district, generally, I am afraid it has.

How do you account for more persons being out of employ now than there were in former times?—Prices have been much lower; the farmers have been receiving less money, and have all got poorer.

That, in your opinion, is the reason that the persons have been turned out of employment?—The only reason.

Can you state the proportion of the population out of employment, in consequence of the circumstances to which you have referred?—I cannot answer that question satisfactorily, because it varies so much at this moment, owing to the treaties I have mentioned. I believe they are all employed; they may continue so for a few weeks; then there will be a greater proportion out of employ than ever.

You stated that the cottages were sometimes made from barracks that have been taken down; do you conceive the barracks having existed in the country during the war brought an unnatural influx of Labourers into that county, beyond what you would have had but for the war?—No doubt the population in that county received a great increase during the war, from a variety of causes; there were amazing extensive Government works going on for many years; the rate of wages that was paid for those works was quite enormous, and that induced a great number of persons to come into the county, and induced a great number of persons to leave agricultural employment, and to get into that description of employment. They married in consequence of that, having an idea that there was to be the same demand for labour for ever, and therefore were under no sort of apprehension as to the want of work for their children; and there was another great draft on the men of that county, by volunteering from the Militia; the battalion to which I belonged for several years sent four entire battalions, of 1,000 men each, to the Line, and those men were filled up from the county.

You attribute a great deal of your present difficulty in your county to super-
abundant

abundant population?—No doubt; and if your Lordships will give me leave I will state what occurs to me as the principal cause of that pressure now, beyond what I think it was formerly. I have always remarked there was tendency in the county to increase in population beyond a regular demand for their labour; and formerly the young men in any parish, when they found work slack, packed up their little necessaries, and went off to London, and to other great towns, where they constantly got employment, and we heard no more of them; but of late years this town particularly, and others, are so blocked up by Irish Labourers that few Englishmen now find employment out of their own parishes, and are consequently retained in their own parishes, which are thus deprived of the old channels by which their increased population, from time to time, was drawn off; and I do not apprehend that any other cure can be found than by that most just and necessary measure, the establishment of a Poor Law for Ireland.

Is it your opinion that the surplus of labour has increased very materially owing to the difficulties of occupiers of land?—Oh yes.

If the occupiers of land had adequate capital to employ the entire present labour in the surrounding district, is it your opinion that capital might be profitably employed in the occupation of the same, and the employment of those Labourers?—At the present prices I doubt whether it would, because the prices which have taken place for some years past have destroyed the capital of the farmer.

The question assumes a sufficient capital?—But that would not continue unless it produced a return.

Your opinion is that it would not produce a return and give an average profit of stock?—Yes.

Are the lands so well cultivated as they were some years ago?—Not half so well; and that I have remarked in many counties in England, that the state of agriculture is getting much worse, and the country getting out of cultivation generally.

You stated the case of a parish in which the increased expense arising from the increased wages of labour would amount to about 1,200*l.* a year; do you know what is the rental of that parish?—I think it is higher than the parish of Benenden.

Do you know what the rental is?—I think it is between 3,000*l.* and 4,000*l.* a year.

Do you consider it utterly impossible for farmers to pay for any continuance those increased wages of labour?—I am sure they cannot.

Are you acquainted with the state of the parish of Lenham?—Not at all.

Is there any land in your neighbourhood wholly unoccupied and uncultivated?

—There are many farms in that district that are thrown upon the landlords' heads.

How long have they so continued?—In the course of this autumn; that was the first time I heard of it to any great extent.

Are the farmers in your neighbourhood supposed to be in prosperous circumstances, or the reverse?—Very much the reverse.

Do you know what wages of labour were till lately paid in the neighbouring parishes to persons employed upon the roads?—Not accurately.

Has much arable land in your parish, or in the neighbouring parishes, been converted into pasture?—I think not a great deal.

Has any quantity been planted of late?—Some, I believe, but not sufficient to make any great difference.

What number of acres are there in your parish?—I think about 6,000.

What is the county rate of your parish?—That I cannot state; it is paid from the Poor-book.

Can you state what the county rate is in the pound?—There is a heavy county rate at present, occasioned by building a new County Lunatic Asylum; but half of it is paid by the landlord, under a local Act of Parliament.

Is any allowance paid in aid of wages in the parish?—Oh yes, in all the parishes, and must be so; that is the great grievance of the present time, that the wages that a man earns cannot by possibility keep his family, if that family exceeds three children.

Twelve years ago, was there any considerable portion of your parish out of employment?—I have no doubt of it, but I cannot state the proportion; it has been so, I think, very nearly since the peace.

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Esq. M.P.

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Did the system of giving parish allowances in aid of wages exist at that time?—It has existed ever since the year 1797 or 1798, when corn rose to 50*l.* or 40*l.* a load; previous to that time, from the year 1783, which is the earliest time that I recollect the parish, to 1793 or 1794, or perhaps 1795, very little variation took place in the condition of the Labourers. The Labourers at that time were universally, without any exception, able to maintain themselves by the wages they received; and that can be proved by many witnesses as old as myself, and by reference to the Poor Rates at that time; the Poor Rates were such a mere trifle that it is quite clear no part of the wages of the Labourers could have been taken from that fund during that period.

Are you aware what the average price of wheat was at that period?—No, I cannot tell.

Was it much dearer at that time, or at all dearer, than it is at the present moment?—I think it was cheaper.

Can you state what was the rate of wages at that time?—Less than now, considerably. I think in my parish there were three periods of the year, and they were paid, according to those periods, 1*s.* 2*d.* a day, 1*s.* 3*d.* a day and 1*s.* 6*d.* a day; 1*s.* 6*d.* a day was the highest, and notwithstanding that there was scarcely an instance of any man ever going directly to the Poor's Rate, but in the event of a very large family, seven or eight or nine children, they had a few peas or a little barley given them about Christmas time, to fatten a pig; a little assistance might have been given towards the rent, but that could have been but trifling, the amount of the rate was so small.

Is the disproportion between the rate of wages now, and the price of wheat greater than it was at the period to which you have just alluded to?—I cannot say, but whatever that proportion may be, it will not show of itself the relative condition of the Labourer, for the money went so much farther at the former period than it does now.

In what respect did it go farther?—The taxation of the country was so much less. Money then bought more goods than it will now.

What particular articles were bought at a cheaper rate than are at present?—Malt, candles, soap, and articles of ordinary consumption; tea, I remember, they never drank at all; I never saw a teapot in any man's cottage at that time.

Do they drink tea now?—Universally.

What is the price of the tea they drink?—I cannot say.

Did they brew at that time?—Every Labourer who kept house brewed then.

Has the use of coffee been introduced among the Labourers?—Not generally.

Is that superseding the use of tea amongst them?—Not in that district.

Was not the clothing of that day much stronger, and did it not go much farther than that of the present day?—Decidedly.

If the disproportion was not so great, for what reason cannot a Labourer live on 12*s.* a week without parish assistance, when he could live without parish assistance at the period to which you have been referring from 1787 to 1797?—I apprehend it proceeds from the effect of indirect taxation; he pays no direct taxes.

Are you of opinion, that if the farmers were in prosperous circumstances, they would be able to pay those increased wages of labour?—No doubt.

They would be in prosperous circumstances if they received remunerating prices?—No doubt.

When you say that a Labourer has 12*s.* a week, the Committee are to understand it is 12*s.* a week they receive plus the allowance out of the Poor's Rate?—Yes; in the case of a Labourer having a larger family than three children. A single man would get 12*s.*

If you pay 12*s.* to a single man in your parish, and the wages to single men in the neighbouring parish are only 5*s.* 6*d.* a week, do the farmers in your parish never employ Labourers out of the neighbouring parish?—Very rarely; because every Labourer so introduced would displace a parishioner, and he would fall upon the Rate.

That operates sufficiently to prevent the introduction of Labourers from other parishes?—Very generally.

You state that the land in Kent is in a worse condition of cultivation than it was fifteen years ago?—Generally; there are certain districts still highly cultivated; there are the hop districts about Maidstone and Canterbury.

Is

Is the produce in corn less than it was fifteen years ago?—In the Weald of Kent, much less.

Do farmers keep less stock than they used to do?—Much less in that district.

Your parish is probably a better parish than a great many, from your residing in it, and attending yourself to the condition of the labouring classes?—I should think so.

As the law now is, after a man has left the country, are you still bound to relieve him when he returns?—Certainly.

You stated you thought that it might be advisable to authorize the levying Rates in some instances on the landlords instead of the tenants?—In the case of the cottages.

Are you not of opinion that it would be fair, in that case, to give the landlord the summary power of re-entry?—Certainly.

Has not the Act authorising payments to prosecutors and witnesses, in case of misdemeanors, increased your County Rates?—Very much.

Are you able to give an opinion of the reduction which must be made in rents, in consequence of the increased wages to Labourers?—I cannot answer that question, because the circumstances are of so recent an origin that we can hardly tell at what point it is going to settle.

Have you any knowledge what the annual rent of a cottage was between 1783 and 1793?—In the parish in which I live, I should think about 30s. or 40s. a year.

It is now 52s.?—Yes.

At that time, did not a much greater proportion of cottages belong to the large proprietors of land than do now?—I do not imagine there were nearly so many cottages then as there are now; that has arisen from the altered state of the agricultural population altogether. At the period alluded to, it was the habit of the farmer to keep within his own family nearly all the workmen he required, domesticated with his family, and subject to his rules and regulations. Of course, cottages at that time were not in demand; and I know, in my own parish, several cottages which belonged to my father were standing tenantless; the single men did not care to encumber themselves with marriage, and remained very happily in their masters' families as servants; they allowed their wages to accumulate until they were enabled to marry with comfort, which they did; and within my own knowledge, with the exception of three or four, I can remember all the farmers in my parish to have sprung from Labourers; but that state of things has entirely gone by, and the Labourers are inhabiting cottages, instead of residing, as they used to do, in the families of their masters.

Is the land divided into different portions?—Not materially changed; there is some change in forty years, but not in any very great degree, in that district.

Are they generally large or small farms?—Small. Two hundred acres is considered a large farm.

Is there not another circumstance which has increased the County Rate; taking of rewards which used to be paid at the Exchequer?—I am not able to say, of my own knowledge, whether it has or not.

You say that the produce of corn is considerably less in the district in which you reside, than formerly; to what do you attribute that?—To the loss of capital on the part of the farmer.

And to the employment of fewer Labourers?—The employment of fewer Labourers follows the loss of capital.

The loss of capital, you attribute to the want of remunerating prices?—Yes; his capital has been dwindling gradually away till it is gone down to nothing.

Is it habitual for the farmer of one parish not to employ Labourers in another parish?—That is the general rule; there are some exceptions. There are a few men belonging to another parish in my own, and very excellent men they are; but where there are in a parish more Labourers than are wanted, it is manifestly not to any advantage to import foreign labour.

Are you aware of any arrangement having been made lately in any parts of Kent, in respect of those for whom labour could not be provided, by the farmers (who had no occasion for those Labourers) employing them merely for the purpose of preventing their being out of employ, and thus being on the Poor's Rate?—For many years past it is generally done.

Do you conceive that the present Laws of Settlement operate in any degree to prevent the circulation of labour, and the relief of parishes who may find themselves overburthened with population?—I do not think it does; I think the

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greatest impediment to the country in which I live, is the immense immigration of Irish Labourers, who fill the places in which the surplus population have been hitherto employed.

To what circumstance do you attribute the disuse of the farmers having the men in their own house?—That occurred in the early part of the war, when the wages rose, and the demand for labour in the county of Kent, in consequence of Government Works, was very great. The wages that a servant received in a farmer's family bore no proportion to those he got out of it; he became dissatisfied with his situation; and the farmer, in consequence of the alteration of circumstances, and the high prices which prevailed during the war, got above his situation, and was ready to part with all his men, whom he considered rather encumbrances and annoyances to him; and thus, by mutual consent, the Masters and the Labourers parted. The origin of this unfortunate change is he traced to the early part of the late war.

During the time of high prices, did the farmer very much change his mode of living?—In that part of the country I think less than in other parts; but they were all then desirous of being disencumbered from their farm servants in their houses, and they lived more expensively.

Can you give the Committee any idea of the proportion that the land in wood bears to the arable and pasture land in your parish?—Without speaking very accurately, I should think that the wood land is something approaching one-third of the whole 6,000 acres.

Can you state the proportion between the hop lands and others?—I cannot.

Is there any considerable proportion of that hop land?—The impression upon my mind is, that there are 300 acres of hop ground in the parish.

That bears a higher price than common arable land?—In fixing the rent of a farm that is taken into consideration, and a round sum agreed for the whole farm. The hop ground varies; sometimes it is more, sometimes it is less; it is constantly varying in quantity.

A farm, with a piece of hop ground attached to it, lets at a higher price than one without a piece of hop ground attached to it?—Not in all cases; the hop trade has been a very losing trade of late years.

You state the number of acres in your parish to be 6,000, the rental about 3,000 *l.*, making the rental on the average 10 *s.*?—Yes; and that is quite the average of the rental of that whole district.

Supposing the Labourer to be paid after the rate of 12 *s.* per week, and prices to remain as they are at present, do you think that the capital employed in farming can yield any thing like a profit?—For several years past it has not; the rents have been paid out of the tenant's capital, and not out of profit.

The result of that must be, in the end, that land would bear no rent at all?—Unless there is some check to this falling state of agriculture.

Therefore a Labourer in point of fact receiving 12 *s.* per week receives a remuneration for his labour such as will not enable the landlord to obtain a rent for his land, or a farmer to obtain a proper interest for his capital?—At the present rate of wages it is manifest they cannot be paid.

Supposing rent to be given up entirely, could the wages be paid out of poor land?—I should think not; for several years past little or no rent has been paid; and the Poor's Rate paid with the utmost difficulty.

Has not the distress of the farmers proportionally increased the distress of the tradesmen and shopkeepers?—Certainly; one follows the other.

And therefore decreased their means of meeting their expenses?—Yes.

Do you, on a cultivation properly conducted, know what number of men must be employed on a certain number of acres?—I cannot answer that question without a good deal of consideration; but they require a great deal more hand labour in that district than in other counties.

It is a stiff cold clay soil?—It is.

You do not conceive that in your parish at present there is any superabundance of labour?—I think there is, notwithstanding the effort I made three or four years ago; and it is manifest that it must be annually increasing, and that the measure will have to be repeated; because, unless we can get employment for the hands that are increasing upon us (whether from vaccination or from any other cause I cannot say,) they will accumulate upon us, and we must have a fresh swarm off the hive.

Assuming for a moment that you have by emigration reduced your population to that limit which is actually necessary for the good cultivation of that parish,
could

could you cultivate, at the present immediate prices of labour, to any profit to the cultivator?—With us the profit a good deal depends upon the state of the hop cultivation; and I should say, that if the hop trade in general was favourable, that we could; but if we have no hops, with so large a population, then we should be troubled to employ them at all; and the mere cultivation of corn, in a district requiring four horses to plough instead of two, there cannot be much profit in growing corn in these times.

Is not the cultivation of hops a very precarious culture?—Very much so.

Is it not a fact that you cannot cultivate an acre of hops without laying out forty pounds an acre, independent of picking, drying and duty?—With us it is about thirty pounds; in some parts I believe it is forty; there is an annual expense of thirty pounds an acre in my district, whether there is any crop or not. We have been reproached for addicting ourselves to that which is so uncertain; but hops must be grown, and are as necessary as malt; and that particular district having so much wood in it, there would be no market for the wood unless we grow hops, and we should lose all those sources of labour we have now if that cultivation was at an end.

In the year 1801 and 1811 was the population of your parish larger than was necessary for the good cultivation of the soil?—In the year 1801, certainly not.

It appears in 1801 that the population was 1,300; in 1811, 1,322; that in 1821 it was 1,746. Supposing the population not to have increased, and in the year 1830 to have been diminished to the extent of 149 by emigration, there would still apparently remain 297 more persons in the parish than there were in 1801; is there any increase of cultivation in the parish which can possibly employ this number of persons?—There is a larger surface of hop grounds, and there has an improved method of agriculture been adopted, I apprehend; but if the discouragements on agriculture were removed, that county would produce more, and be susceptible of employing a greater number of Labourers.

Taking those circumstances into consideration, could the parish afford profitable employment to 1,600 persons; that is 300 more than in 1801?—That depends upon prices; if the prices warranted it I have no doubt they would be profitably employed.

Are the tithes heavy in your neighbourhood?—In some parishes they are.

Has any reduction been made in the tithes?—The value of the tithes, where it has been subject to composition, has depended upon prices.

No tithe is payable on wood land?—None in the Weald of Kent.

Do you consider the last two or three years as average crops in your neighbourhood, or that the prices have been forced up by inadequate produce?—The last three years have been the worst that I can remember in the county of Kent, owing to the rot in sheep, and wet summers producing miserable crops of corn.

When was the valuation of your parish taken on which the rates are assessed?—I forget in what year, but it was in some year during the war.

Was it early or late in the war?—It was during the subsistence of the property tax.

When you spoke of rental at 3,000*l.*, did you refer to the rental on land, or including houses?—The whole.

You are understood to state, that although allowance is made in your parish and adjoining parishes in aid of wages, it is not according to any scale which exists, but in the nature of occasional relief?—I think, unless in some cases of workmen, and men in a better situation, all the families having above three children in some way or other get assisted.

According to special circumstances?—Yes, just so; the Overseers observe no rule at all; they look at a man's circumstances, and give what they think necessary.

The rate has been observed to increase less in parishes where allowance has been made from special circumstances than where a scale has obtained?—There has been no scale admitted in that district for some years; ten years ago at least it was put an end to.

Have the farmers agreed to pay the increased rate of wages, hoping for relief from Parliament?—I have not been present at any of their meetings, and therefore cannot speak to that; but they are looking for relief somewhere or other.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'clock.

Die Mercurii, 8 Decembris 1830.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *Stephen Denainbray*, is called in; and Examined, as follows:

Rev.
S. Denainbray.
8 Decembris,
1830.

YOU are Rector of Broad Somerford in Wiltshire?—Yes.

Have the Poor in your parish any land attached to their cottages, or any means of renting small portions of land?—In the year 1806 an Act was passed for the Inclosure of the Parish, in which an offer was made of land in lieu of tithes, upon very liberal terms; but, considering the interests of the poor, who ought to be defended by the clergyman, I said I could not consent to the proposals, though I acknowledged their liberality, but on making some provision for the Poor; and the provision, which will appear from this Act, was, that every free cottage should have half an acre of land attached to it.

There was a clause in the Act to enable you so to do!—Yes; the clause is to this effect: “And he it further Enacted, That the said Commissioners shall and they are hereby required to set out and allot unto and for the said Rector and the Churchwardens and Overseers of the said parish of Great Somerford, otherwise Broad Somerford, for the time being, all such plot or plots of the waste lands hereby intended to be divided and inclosed that shall have been encroached, taken out of, and inclosed upon the said waste lands within the space of twenty years last past by the respective owners of any ancient cottages within the said parish, and annexed to and occupied therewith respectively, such cottages not being held by lease or leases, copy or copies of court roll, or by license in writing, or consent of the lord or lords or any reputed lord or lords of any manor in the said parish, having authority to grant the same, and duly entered or enrolled in the court books of the said manor, and the proprietors of the said ancient cottages having no lands or tenements in the said parish, save the gardens and appurtenances to the said cottages belonging; and in case any such encroachments or parcels of land, together with the garden, orchard or land, belonging to such ancient cottages respectively, shall not contain by admeasurement two roods, then and in every such case the said Commissioners shall set out and allot unto and for the said Rector, Churchwardens and Overseers, as aforesaid, such further part or parts of the said waste lands adjoining to such ancient cottages or encroachments, or as near the same as can be, as shall with the said garden, orchard and land, belonging to such ancient cottage make the same in quantity, two roods; which said encroachments already made, and the said additional allotments (if any shall be allotted) for the purposes aforesaid, shall be and is hereby vested in the said Rector, Churchwardens and Overseers, for the time being, and to be by them yearly and every year, on the Tuesday in Easter week, let and set by them to the respective owners of the said cottages, free of rent and all parochial taxes whatsoever: Provided always, That the said owners of the said respective ancient cottages for the time being shall and they are hereby required to properly hedge, ditch and fence the said encroachments and allotments of land, if any shall be allotted, according to the directions of the said Commissioners, and from time to time repair and keep the same in repair, or in default thereof the said Rector, Churchwardens and Overseers shall and are hereby empowered to let the same at rack rent, and apply the rents and profits thereof until such hedges, ditches and fences are properly raised.” In addition to this, the lord of the manor consented, as to every one of the cottages leased on lives, that the same quantity of land should be allotted to those cottages; that altogether every cottage in the parish, to the number of twenty-two, has enough land to make up a half acre. My object in giving it to the Rector and Churchwardens was, that if a poor man was distressed, his little property was soon appropriated, and from the nature of the Poor Laws, particularly the payment of a portion of the wages from the Poor's Rate, made the little cottager in a worse situation absolutely than the pauper, because, if his labour was made up by the Poor Rate, and he could not receive that additional pay for his labour as long as he possessed property, the sooner he got rid of his orchard or his cottage the sooner he was entitled to receive pay from the parish; therefore every thing was calculated to

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to cut down the poor man's little property; I kept it in this way to prevent the alienation of it. This did not meet all the difficulties of the parish, as the whole population would not have been benefited by this; and therefore I further obtained, by the clauses of the Act, that eight acres should be allotted in the same way, vested in the Rector and Churchwardens, for the benefit of the poor generally; every individual in the parish, according to the number in the family, was, every Tuesday in the Easter week, to have his little allotment of land.

Do you consider your parish benefited by the poor having land attached to their cottages?—I fear I shall appear an enthusiast upon the subject, but I do most sincerely from my heart believe that they are extremely benefited. If I might trespass upon your Lordships' time, I would state the general effect upon the parish. There was one little difficulty I did not foresee, and that was, that the Act expressly said the eight acres allotted should be in proportion to the number of the family; the consequence was, when a poor man lost part of his family, as an industrious man was anxious to get his children out to service, it was very hard that his portion of land, which he had so well cultivated, should be reduced; still the law said it should be reduced; that was an unforeseen accident; but I will mention how it has ultimately proved advantageous. The poor man said, "I hope, Sir, you will not deprive me of my land." I said, "I am sorry, but the law is imperative, but I shall be very glad to let you a little land." To which the man would say, he would give any thing for it: and thus I let small portions, as I was able to obtain it from my larger farmers, to those poor individuals who appeared worthy. From their cultivation from time to time this has increased.

Have the goodness to state what rent you asked for that land you so let to them?—The same rent precisely that my farmer gave me, with this little difference; to prevent the trouble of poor men being taxed for the rates, I paid the rates, and made a small advance, making it precisely the same as I received from the farmer who had previously rented it.

Are the lands held by those poor tenants well cultivated?—Cultivated in such perfection that, I venture to say, it is almost a disgrace to the farmer's cultivation; they are beautifully cultivated, and never fail.

What sort of soil is there in that parish?—In the first instance, it was the best soil. I was very anxious that the cottager should have the best soil to try the experiment; but after a time, as I really found it succeed, and it was so great a gratification to myself, I did obtain eighteen acres from the very poor land; it was called the Marsh. I said, "I am afraid this will not answer your purpose." "Oh, Sir, let us try." It was a clay land; it was a peaty land; the sub-stratum clay in some parts; in general, I may say, those eighteen acres were bad. The farmer had had it under plough, and was not able to produce any thing from it. I let it them at about 25s. an acre, to cover the expense of rates and all taxes.

What rent did you receive from the farmer for those eighteen acres?—In the outset, during the war, when high prices were given, for an estate of 100 acres, free-free, I received 120*l.*, but I reduced that to 90*l.*; it was too large a price.

At what period did you reduce it?—At the end of the war.

What reduction did you make to the farmer in consequence of taking away those eighteen acres from him?—I then let the portion which remained for 60*l.*; it was necessary to make great reductions at the time.

Were those eighteen acres the worst or the best?—Perhaps it might be as good as any part of this farm; rather preferable perhaps to the majority. The consequence on those eighteen acres has been most favourable, and I beg to impress it on any gentleman who has poor land, as I will venture to say the crops for the last five or six years upon this poor land have been fully equal, perhaps superior, to those in any other part of the parish. A large proportion of my land is the best in the parish; it adjoins to Dauncey, Lord Peterborough's; some of the best land in the county, some of which was let at 50*s.* during the war; it is let now at 30*s.*

Do you find that the tenants are able to pay their rents, and that they do so willingly?—They do so willingly. I assemble them once a year and give them a supper; they have never failed to pay their rents; a single individual at the outset failed to pay, and he was deprived of his land.

Do you make any stipulations with your poor tenants as to the mode of cultivating

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vating their land, or do you think any necessary?—None; I have always found it better to leave the poor man free.

Have any of the poor lands in your parish gone out of cultivation in consequence of the reduction of the price of agricultural produce?—In the course of the summer of 1828, my farmer, who rented it at 60*l.* a-year, which he had done for some years, told me it was utterly impossible he could go on with eighty acres, tithe free, at 60*l.* year; he could pay me only 30*l.* for that current year; the consequence was, I sent to my agent in the country, requesting him to do the best he could for me, and that, as they were still eager to take land, he should let off ten or twelve acres to the poor, and the rest must go out of cultivation, or he must do the best he could. A day was appointed for the poor that wanted it; my agent found that the public-house was crowded with applicants; there were a hundred applicants for this poor land, and he took upon himself, contrary quite to my directions, but I am much pleased with the result, to let the whole of this land to the poor applicants; they drew lots for their pieces; as there was a great difference in the soil, there were prices fixed to the different parts according to the value, and the whole was let in this manner. That land was not fresh turned up, but which had been under the plough for twenty years, which had never produced more than a meagre crop of oats or potatoes, and hardly ever a little wheat; that land, last summer, when I went to see it, was, every part of it, productive under spade husbandry; and by attention in those poor men in putting it in a different state from that in which the farmer in general does it, namely, by hoeing it in, and by the other attentions a poor man can give it, was a picture; every body in the neighbourhood came to see it. That land was completely productive; the tenants came and paid on the appointed day, every one, cheerfully and gratefully.

You have stated that you received 30*l.* rent for the last year, before you made this division; what rent do you now receive?—The rent was 97*l.* 11*s.*, I paying the rates, which amounted to 14*l.*; and thus I received a benefit myself, independent of every feeling of benevolence. I received 80*l.* clear for that I could not obtain 60*l.* for, and for which I actually received the last year only 30*l.*

Have other parishes in your neighbourhood adopted the plan of letting land to the poor?—I am happy to say, that in the year 1820 the adjoining parish of Rodbarn was inclosed. Mr. Pollen was the whole and sole proprietor of the hamlet; he had some very inferior land, bearing gorse or furze and brambles; he threw out eight acres for the purpose of benefiting the poor. Rodbarn is the hamlet and Malmesbury the parish. Malmesbury the year following inclosed a very large common of very wet poor land, which has been allotted wholly to the poor, and the consequence is, that, with respect to the rates, the amount of Poor's Rate for this parish of Malmesbury, including its several tithings, having been, for the year ending the 26th of March 1819, 2,074*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.*, was, in the year ending the 25th of March 1830, only 1,424*l.* 18*s.* This land was of the worst description, boggy and clayey, and nobody could cross it with a horse. I believe a huntsman could hardly cross it in the winter.

Have you seen that land since?—Yes, I have, and there are fine crops upon it.

You stated that you had made allotments of two acres of land to each individual in your last letting?—No; it varies sometimes; it was one acre and sometimes two acres.

It was never more than two acres?—In a few instances there was more than that; a part covered with furze and fern and trampery, of which there is one piece, I see, of four acres and three roods; another piece of three acres; and there is one piece, a furze piece, not under the spade, which is eleven acres; it is given up as impossible to cultivate, but still, though that is not under cultivation, I have received 97*l.* 11*s.* for the land.

Do you find that the poor people who have those allotments of four acres, are able to do any other work besides attending to this land, which they have under spade cultivation?—I should suppose not, those having that large plot; those who have two acres indisputably do; but it often happens, that where a poor man gets to a certain time of life, fifty or sixty, he flinches a little, he cannot do a day's work, but he is happy to get a little to do for himself, and to struggle on, and he does that without parochial relief.

Have you found that the effect of this measure has been to withdraw persons from burthens on the Rates, who were formerly supported by them?—In some instances, certainly, not in many; in one single instance the parish pays for the two

acres

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acres which a pauper with a large family rents of me at 4*l.* a-year, for which he has made his bargain not to receive parochial relief; he certainly would have been entitled to 16*l.* or 17*l.* for his family, according to the plan so long pursued.

What is the common rate of wages in your parish?—They were reduced again in the early part of this winter to 7*s.*, without the allowance usual for families; a man with two children had 7*s.* I think that is lower than any preceding period; last year it was 8*s.* during the winter, and 9*s.* during the summer.

What allowances have been made in aid of wages from the Parish Rates?—It has been usual to give so much according to the price of bread; a quarter loaf a head to each member of the family per week.

Are there any persons unemployed in your parish?—Certainly, there must be some still hitherto on the parish during the winter.

How are they employed?—We endeavour to give employment to them in digging gravel, of which there is a great deal, or on the roads.

What wages do persons so employed by the parish receive?—Seven shillings; they have made regulations since, which I hope will increase those wages; but the Labourers have had 7*s.*; it is the same as the farmers pay.

The wages are the same whether employed by farmers or the parish?—Yes.

Has your parish been disturbed by riotous meetings?—I am happy to say not; they have approached near us, to Tetbury, nine miles from us, on one side; and on the other side Christian Malford, about four miles.

You found that those riotous disturbances stopped nearly where the spade cultivation prevailed?—I cannot presume to say that; but we have had no disturbances.

Neither in your parish nor Malmesbury?—There were not, nor any disposition towards it.

Has any advance been made in the rate of wages?—I apprehend there has.

Do you know to what amount?—I cannot state exactly.

Do you know what the size of the holdings is of the land in Malmesbury Common?—I cannot speak to that.

Can you state the means the Poor have of obtaining manure for their land?—It is wonderful how they do procure it; the circumstance that is most valuable to a poor man at present is his keeping a pig; and the pig manure is the strongest and best.

Is that the only means of obtaining manure they have?—If they can get what we call road scrapings, it is extremely valuable. The former tenant supplied them with a little straw, which they took home; he had several of those people on his farm; that straw was converted by the pigs into dung, and he brought the whole back; and after they had had a crop of potatoes, they were sure of a crop of corn.

You are speaking of farmers' land, not of land in the occupation of the Poor?—Previous to this being let to the Poor, the farmer had a habit of letting eight or ten acres to the Poor, and that made it more necessary for me to let this land to six or seven individuals, though not of the parish, because they had occupied it before; so that seven of the adjoining parishes had the benefit of it; it lies nearer to them than to the inhabitants of my parish in general.

What time have the persons who cultivate two acres each with spade husbandry to employ in labour elsewhere?—The greater part of them, when the farmers will employ them, do not go to their own farm; but the farmer has not sufficient employment for them.

Do you mean to say that out of those two acres they obtain sufficient to maintain themselves and their families?—It is a very great assistance to them; but they are dependent on labour; they could not pay their rent without labour.

What sort of labour is it by which they earn their livelihood?—The usual labour for the farmers,—hedging, ditching, reaping and mowing.

How much of their time is employed in cultivating those two acres?—I cannot positively answer that question.

Have you no notion what portion of their time is occupied in the cultivation of those two acres?—No; I cannot presume to state that accurately.

How long has that system of holding two acres been in operation in your parish?—The inclosure took place in 1806, from which time they began to have a small portion of land; but a larger allotment took place in 1819.

In cases where you have given those portions of land to the Cottagers, what has become of the young men of their families when they have grown up?—I consider the young men brought up in those habits, being accustomed to labour

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on their father's land, to be brought up more industriously and in better habits than the children of the mere pauper.

Do they remain with their father and mother, or do they go away?—Many of them go away. I do not consider the population of that parish to have more increased than that of the neighbouring parishes.

Do you provide the young men who marry and remain in the parish with land?—Not in the outset; but they come in for their portion allotted by Act of Parliament if they reside in a cottage.

Supposing those cottages were occupied, what would become of those young men then?—I think we have not increased; but it is difficult to get a complete Census. I do not conceive we have much increased in population; I think from the year 1806 I can reckon up only nine cottages which have been built in that parish since that time—twenty-four years.

Has the building of cottages in that parish been avoided by the landlord systematically or by accident?—I think it is by accident. I have built a farm-house, and have built a cottage for a Labourer.

Are any steps taken in any way to get rid of the surplus population in your parish, by sending them elsewhere?—No; we do not apprentice out our children; we let them take their natural course.

Are there more Labourers in your parish at this moment than can obtain employment?—Certainly; there still are more than could find full employment; the farmers would be very glad to dispense with the additional labour thrown upon them.

Those persons are at present in a situation of great distress and difficulty, are they not?—I should say not great distress; and as a proof that the increase in the parish is not great, I do not know, at this moment, where two families are thrust into one house, which is very common in other parishes.

You say they get 7s. a week only?—That was the sum intended to be paid this winter, but it is increased.

Do you conceive with 7s. a week they can maintain themselves with two children?—Indisputably not, with any decency and comfort; but with the addition of a little land they can.

Do you mean a garden ground or those two acres?—Some may have two acres, but the generality have not half an acre. I let so small as ten rods to them, the sixteenth part of an acre; they gladly take any thing I can let them have.

Upon what system do those men cultivate their land?—They are all perfectly free. I believe, after potatoes a wheat crop follows; it has generally, I believe, been wheat and potatoes.

Do they lay down clover?—Very seldom.

Can you obtain an account of the manner in which several of those small portions have been cultivated in successive years, and the produce?—It would be very difficult to obtain it. I could of any one individual, but I can hardly tell what quantity they obtain; they consume most of the potatoes themselves, almost all having their pigs. I have tried something like a new experiment. I believe hitherto it has never occurred that any body has attempted, in large towns, to let land to the Poor: but acknowledging myself an enthusiast from what I had seen in the country, and now residing at Richmond, as being connected with His Majesty's Observatory, I have been anxious to get a little land there, and last spring I obtained eight acres of land; Mr. Selwyn, the King's Counsel, was kind enough to let me have six, the rest was an old worn-out gravel pit. Persons said, "You may have succeeded in the country, from your influence and knowledge of individuals, but here there will be an infinite deal of trouble and no profit;" but such was the eagerness of the Poor, that on the eight acres I have ninety-five tenants; the produce has been most flattering; they have all paid me their rent beforehand, for they came to pay me at Michaelmas the rent due at Lady Day. I think it has prevented many an hour being spent at the alehouse; it is a plying.

What is the rent of this land?—Very heavy: I could not obtain it under 4*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* an acre.

They are merely portions for gardens?—Yes. I receive at the rate of 5*l.* an acre. I was to have paid the rates, but the Vestry have said it is out of the question that the rates could be collected; and, after receiving my rent I had the pleasure of returning 5*l.* to those persons, returning a shilling to each man who held ten rods, and so on.

Is the land in your own parish in the hands of a great number of landlords, or of one or two individuals?—We are singularly circumstanced; there is hardly any

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any land in the parish but in the hands of resident proprietors. Excepting in a very few instances, the proprietor is himself the farmer of the land.

Do you know what the wages of labour were in that parish in the year 1806, when your inclosure took place?—I cannot state with accuracy.

Can you state, at any time between that period and this, what were the wages of labour?—I should be only leading your Lordships astray, I fear. During the war the wages were high; they have been gradually reduced.

Do you ever recollect the wages at 10 s. a week?—Yes.

How long since?—I cannot give the date with sufficient precision.

With respect to the farm which is not in the hands of the proprietor himself, can you speak to the rent of that?—The proprietor resides in the parish, but does not himself occupy it. One of his farms is entirely a grass farm; that, I should suppose, must be about 40 s.

Do you recollect its ever having been let at a higher rent?—Certainly.

How long since?—From the year 1814 or 1815 the prices of course declined.

Are you at all aware of the highest price that was ever paid for that land?—No.

Are you aware of the price that was paid for it previous to the war?—No; people do not communicate their rents: it is very difficult to ascertain rents; there is great shyness in the farmer, because the rates are assessed at two-thirds of the value.

Have you any employment in your parish for the women and children?—We had, very recently, lace-making for the children, to a great extent.

Does that continue?—It is very nearly stopped; it must stop. Urling's lace takes away all the profit.

So that the families depend upon the labour of the men?—Yes; except that the women go out to labour at particular seasons of the year.

Have you a Select Vestry in your parish?—No.

Have you a poor-house?—We have a house which has been considered a poor-house; there are four or five cottages joined together, occupied as a single cottage; they contain a single family each, except that one is inhabited by several unfortunate women with their children.

There is no work provided for those persons?—No.

Do those cottages belong to the parish?—They are rented on the parish account; we pay 10 l. a year for the whole of them. Our lease is nearly expiring; it was a lease for twenty-one years, and we laid out two or three hundred pounds to put them in proper repair.

Have they gardens?—Not attached.

You do not know what produce an acre those people make of their lands that have potatoes one year and wheat the next?—I cannot state that with accuracy.

You probably have no influx of foreign labour at any part of the year?—No, I do not remember any.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Mr. Richard Holloway is called in; and Examined, as follows:

Mr.
Richard Holloway.

YOU are Overseer of the Parish of Shipley, in the Weald of Sussex?—Yes; it is three or four miles from Horsham.

What is the extent of your parish?—About 6,000 acres, besides wood land.

Is there a great deal of wood land?—No, there is not. There are a few woods, but only enough to make the hedges.

What was the population at the last return?—About 1,200.

Have you a statement of the population at the present moment?—I have not; but I have a statement of the men in and out of the parish, and how many families have children over two; ditto, how many have two children and under.

[The Witness produces the same, which is read, and is as follows:]

First Class in the parish	- - - -	200	able-bodied Men.
Ditto out of the parish	- - - -	75	ditto.
Second Class in the parish	- - - -	43	at Three-fourth Wages.
Ditto out of the parish	- - - -	15	ditto.
Third Class—Youths from 15 years to 18 years	- - - -	112	
Families that have relief	- - - -	113	
Number of children	- - - -	377	

Those stated are above two children to a family.

Families with two children and under—80 families and 145 children.

Paupers in the poorhouse—46.

6,000 acres of plain land, rated at 2,710 l.

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Is there any trade carried on in the parish?—No.

What have been the rates for the last ten years?—I am not able to state that at present. I expect the last four or five years they have been as high as 20s. in the pound.

What were they in the last year?—Twenty-four shillings.

Upon what valuation?—Two-thirds of the value.

At what time was the valuation taken?—The valuation was taken in 1818.

How many men have been out of employment at any time last year?—At one time we had as many as 110.

How many have you had this year?—About three weeks back we had as many as 93.

How have those men been employed?—On the roads.

Have they been, when at work by the parish, paid by the grade or task work?—Now we do not pay them by grade but day work.

What has been their pay?—A single man had 7d. a day; a man and his wife, 5s. a week; a man and his wife and one child, 7s. a week; and a man and his wife and two children, 8s. a week; whether two or three, or what number, the highest has been 8s. per week.

Do they pay you for the repair of their own tools?—No; the parish pays for the repair of their tools.

Have you a Select Vestry?—Yes.

And a permanent Overseer?—Yes.

Do you hire any land for cultivation?—Not by the parish; only four acres were hired, to be attached to the poor house.

Have you still got that?—We have let the house at so much per head, and the man has that land for the use of the house.

Have you adopted any new system lately in that parish?—We have called a vestry, and adopted the plan of taking them on the land in some way or other; and we have taken out about forty or fifty, that we have now on the road.

That is within the last fortnight?—Yes; since the rise of wages.

What have you agreed to pay the Labourers you have thus taken?—For able men we allow 2s. a day.

Do you make them an allowance for their families?—No; they come to us, and compel us to pay them 2s. a day, single or married.

What are the rents of cottages in your neighbourhood?—There is a difference in them; I suppose some from 3l. to 3l. 10s. and 4l. and 4l. 10s. according to what ground there is to the cottage.

Have all the cottages gardens to them?—There are very few but what have gardens to them.

What extent are those gardens?—There is a good deal of difference; some are very small; some ten and twenty, some thirty, some forty rods, and so on in proportion.

Who are the proprietors of the cottages; are they generally the large landed proprietors, or the small speculators in building?—There are some cottages belonging to the farms, generally a good many of them; there are some belonging to the parish.

Does the parish pay the rent of the cottages?—We have paid some rent for those that have large families.

Have the rents of cottages been reduced?—They have not been reduced; but the poor have asked for it now since the meetings have been.

Have the rents of the land been reduced?—I cannot say; in some places I expect they have.

What reduction do you think generally could take place in the rents?—I cannot say; in some places there are reductions, and in some places not.

How long have you known Shipley?—I always lived there; I was brought up there.

Can you remember the high prices of corn before the end of the war?—Yes; I have heard that wheat was 25l. or 30l. a load.

Are the rents the same now as they were at that period?—I think they are lower than they were then, to a certainty; at most places they are generally lower. I expect.

At the time of the high prices were there any parish allowances made to the Labourers?—Yes, they had allowances at that time.

Were the allowances the same as they have now?—I am unable to say; I did not attend the vestries then.

What

What were the prices of labour at that time?—I can remember when they had 2s. in the winter, and 2s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. in the summer.

In what year was that?—Fourteen or fifteen years ago.

What was the price of labour, before the late rise, to persons employed by the farmers?—They had 10s. a week when they worked by the day; that is, 1s. 8d. a day upon the farm.

You speak of those regularly employed?—Yes, on the farms.

Was there any distinction made by the farmers between married and single men, in the pay they gave them for work done on their farms?—No; to some of the single ones they did not give so much, as they were not able to do so much.

They paid them in proportion to the work they were able to do?—Yes, they did, pretty much.

What was the sum raised last year in your parish?—Between 3,200*l.* and 3,300*l.*; it was 24*s.* in the pound last year, the land being taken at two-thirds.

Were the cottagers, during the high prices, in the same state of distress that they are now?—No; they were not in so great distress as they have been the last three or four years.

Were they considered a distressed set of people during the high prices?—There were some of that sort, but not so generally as now.

Is there any employment for women and children?—The women got a little employment in summer time in weeding and haymaking, and so on.

Was there any spinning or other manufacture during the time of high prices?—Yes, they used to spin; at that time the farmers used to let the poor women have a little spinning, by which they might earn a shilling or two per week; but that is done away with now.

What is the cultivation in your parish?—Wheat and oats; no turnip land.

Upon what system?—We bring in the wheat crop about twice in seven years; we are forced to fallow every time.

Do you use threshing machines in your parish?—No; there has been but one in the parish.

Do you know what advantage results from the threshing machines?—I have heard there is no advantage results from them; that it is considered that it takes as many hands and costs as much money as threshing by the hand.

Is that the generally received opinion in your parish?—Yes, it is.

It is considered to spoil the straw, is it not?—It breaks the wheat a good deal, and it wants a good many hands; it is considered as expensive to thresh with machines as with hands.

Have you any workhouse in your parish?—Yes.

How many people are in it?—Forty-six at this present time.

Do you contract for their support?—Yes.

At what rate?—Half a crown a head; and, if we put in young chaps, we pay 3*s.* a week.

Has any attempt been made in your parish to obtain land for the poor?—No.

What does a poor man generally earn during the harvest?—That depends on the help. If he has a wife and a boy to help him, he will earn 5*l.* or 5*l.* 10*s.* or 6*l.*, according to what he can get to do.

You refer to the corn harvest?—Yes.

Is it the practice in your parish to hire the men at so much for the harvest month, or do you put them at task work?—We put them at task work.

A wife and a boy are a great assistance in reaping?—Yes.

Do the other children of the family leave at all?—Yes; the women and children leave it afterwards.

Do you consider a single man or a married man the best off in your parish?—A single man would be if he could get work; but if he comes on the parish I do not know which is best off at those prices.

Do you not think a single man is worse off; is he not generally discharged by the farmer the first?—No, I do not see that; for there are some that will take them on rather than others, where they have got work.

Do you think that system of making the single men worse off than the married men, does not produce early marriages?—I do not know; but there is no doubt the low-priced wages have driven some of them to it.

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Richard Holford.

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Mr.
Richard Holliday.
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Are most of your parishioners residing in the parish?—No; we have seventy-five able-bodied men out of the parish, some at Brighton and some at Housham, or we should be worse than we are.

Do you allow those any thing that abide out of your parish?—Yes; all who have children over two.

Have you any highway rate collected in your parish?—No.

The whole of the repairs of the road are paid out of the Poor's Rate?—Yes.

Have you a Churchwarden's Rate in your parish?—No.

Is that paid out of the Poor's Rate also?—Yes.

Do you know whether the County Rate has increased in your parish?—No; I do not expect that it has increased much.

Do you know how much it was the last payment?—I think it has been nearly 40 *l.* a year.

The roads do not require the number of men you employ upon them, probably?—No; a tenth part would do.

You place them upon the roads because you think it better to give them something to do than to leave them idle?—Yes.

Upon what do your labourers live principally?—They live very hard; they have had nothing now but bread for some time past, they have been so bad off, a good many of them.

Do their families drink tea?—Yes, they do, if they can get it; and they look out and get it generally.

Do you conceive a man can live as he ought to live on 7 *d.* a day?—No, not as he ought to live.

It is 7 *d.* a day only for the working days?—Yes.

Do they work wet and dry?—No; they do not work, but the pay goes on the same.

When you say the farmers give so much a week, do they give it wet and dry?—Yes; the farmers generally look out, and get them a barn if it is wet.

They pay them at that rate?—Yes.

Is the land better cultivated in that parish than it was when you first recollect it?—I do not know; owing to the distressed times, the land has been driven harder, I think.

Do the farmers keep less stock?—Some keep rather reducing; they cannot keep their stock up.

You do not conceive that the farmers are in a very flourishing state in your county?—No, they are not, generally speaking; they have been; for the last two or three years we have had three very bad seasons.

Are you a farmer yourself?—Yes.

What land do you occupy?—About 350 acres.

Is that your own land, or land you hold from any body else?—Land which I took.

How much an acre do you pay for that land?—I have got some I pay about 15 *s.* an acre, some 1 *l.* It is under two different gentlemen I hold.

What is the size of each of the farms, and the rent?—I have one farm of about 130 acres, that goes at 110 *l.* a year; the other farm is about 210 acres. I took a lessee in the high time, at least my father did, at 210 *l.* a year, but my landlord has been kind enough to throw off 50 *l.* a year for the last three or four years.

Upon that you pay to the Poor's Rate about 18 *s.* in the pound?—I paid last year for that farm, for which I pay 160 *l.* a year, 120 *l.* Poor's Rate.

That Poor's Rate includes all the rates of every description within the parish?—Yes.

Have you any Labourers that are constantly employed upon your farm?—Yes, I have.

How many?—I have five men that work for me constantly, if I want them.

Do you shift them from farm to farm, as they are wanted?—Yes.

Do you pay them wages by the year or by the week?—By the week or the grate.

When you pay those men by the week, what do you pay them?—Ten shillings a week I did; now we give 12 *s.* a week.

Have they a cottage?—Yes.

Attached

Attached to the farm?—Yes.

Do they pay you rent for it?—I have two or three men who do not pay rent, for they look after stock for me; one is a carter.

He receives 10s. a week, and his cottage free of rent?—Yes.

Do the other persons pay rent for their cottages?—Yes.

What rent do they pay for their cottages?—They pay me 4l. a year.

Is there any thing beyond this 10s. a week, that those persons can earn in harvest time?—Yes, in harvest time they can.

How do you pay them in harvest time?—So much an acre for reaping, so much an acre for mowing, and so on.

How much can they earn per week at that time?—I should expect they may make about 4l. or 5l.; probably about 5l.

How much by the week do you imagine they can earn in harvest time?—There is about a week or ten days, when they are reaping, they can earn 30s. or 40s., but that does not hold many days; some men want seven acres to reap, another eight, and another nine: we pay them at the end of the month.

Supposing a man's regular wages to be 10s. a week, how much additional do you think he can earn by his working at harvest?—I should conceive a man through the harvest would earn 24s. or 25s. a week, or 30s. perhaps, he and his wife, and a boy, if he had one.

He would earn 3l. or 4l. more in the course of the harvest?—Yes.

How is it with respect to the hay harvest; can a man earn more at hay time than at other times?—If he goes to mowing, he works by the grate, and earns more, working harder than by day work.

How long have you been in possession of those farms?—I have been brought up in the farms all my time; it is a family concern. I have done the business about ten years.

Is there any land attached to those persons' cottages?—Yes, there is a little ground; a garden.

What might be the size?—I cannot say, it may be twenty rods; I should expect those cottages I have, have about thirty or forty rods of ground among them.

You say on the larger of those farms, your rent has been reduced?—Yes.

When you first took it, what did you pay to the Labourers?—They were giving 2s. 3d. and 2s. 6d. a day during the long days in summer; in my father's time he used to pay from 12s. to 15s. a week during the summer time.

Have you the same number of men on your farm now that there were ten years ago?—Yes, about the same number; some the same men.

Do the farmers in general in your parish, employ as many as they used to do?—There is a difference: some are not able to employ the men.

Have the rents in your parish in general been lowered within the last ten years?—I expect they have generally.

You have not any idea how much they have been lowered?—No; there are some farms that have not been lowered, and there are some that have.

Has there been, within your memory, any valuation made of the parish for the purpose of assessing the Poor's Rates?—There was a valuation about twelve years back.

Is your Poor Rate collected on two-thirds of that valuation?—Yes.

In point of fact, will the two-thirds of that valuation so taken twelve years ago, be very much below the actual rent paid now?—No, it is not very much below the actual rent paid now.

Upon that you pay 24s. in the pound?—Yes.

Have the articles that the Labourers use in your parish been diminished in price within the last ten years, such as clothes of all descriptions?—Yes; things of that kind are a good deal cheaper than they used to be.

Are the necessaries of life there cheaper than they used to be?—Yes.

How are coals in your parish?—We do not burn coals much.

Do the Poor buy any thing for fuel, or collect what they can find?—There are a great many that are forced to collect what they can find.

Is there any wood sold in your parish for fuel?—Not for the purposes of the Poor.

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In fact, they have no fuel but what they pick up?—There are some that look out and endeavour to buy wood; but some do not.

None use coals?—None of any account.

Do the farmers use coals?—No.

How much a quarter do you pay your Labourers when they thresh by the piece?—Three shillings and sixpence for wheat.

Do you refer to the present year?—Last year; it depends on how it yields.

What are you giving this year?—We have been giving 3s. 6d.; last year it was 3s. 4d.; it yielded rather better than it does this.

What did you give ten years ago for threshing wheat?—We used to give 4s. ten or twelve or fifteen years ago, depending on the job, and we used to keep them better; but that has been done away with.

What is your measure of paying by hedging?—By the rod.

What do you pay now, per rod, for hedging?—Twopence halfpenny per rod for one side; 5d. a rod for the two.

Do you know what you paid formerly?—I recollect when we paid 6d. a rod.

At the time you paid 6d. a rod, how much a load was wheat?—Wheat was up then to 25*l.* or 30*l.* a load.

What was the price of wheat last year?—Eighteen pounds or nineteen pounds a load.

Then a Labourer with the 3s. 6d. he now gets, can buy more than he could do then with the 4s.?—Yes; no doubt of it.

With respect to your profits as a farmer, can you afford to pay 3s. 6d. for threshing wheat as well as you could afford to pay 4s. formerly?—No, we cannot afford to pay it near so well.

The 3s. 6d. is more for you to pay now than the 4s. then?—Yes.

How much an acre do you reckon a good crop of wheat in your county?—I should expect that our parish, take the parish all through, will not average four sacks an acre, two quarters. We had a very short crop the last three or four years; but some years there is some land which will produce seven or eight sacks, perhaps.

What do you reckon a good crop in your county?—Seven or eight sacks, three quarters and a half, or four quarters, an acre; there is a great deal that will not yield above three, and from that to four.

Is the land in worse condition now than it was fifteen years ago?—I think the land is driven harder than it was.

You say the men now employed by the farmers and the parish, by the last agreement, receive 12*s.* a week; shall you be able to continue those wages?—We shall have no chance of continuing them if we do not get relief somewhere.

Are there more men out of employ of late years than there used to be?—A great many; they keep coming out on the roads for the last three or four years.

What is the proportion of corn and grass land in your parish?—There is not much grass land.

Has there been a great increase of houses in your parish?—No, there has not; we have not near houses enough to take all our Poor in if they were to come home.

Is your land let to you tithe-free?—One farm is let to me tithe-free.

Do you employ rather more labourers, in proportion to your land, than other farmers who have not it tithe-free?—No, I do not know that I do; I employ as many as I want to do my work.

You employ as many Labourers as you did ten years ago?—I believe I do.

Do other farmers employ as many Labourers as they did ten years ago?—The little farmers are obliged to drive things off, for they cannot pay them.

Has much land been laid down to grass in consequence of the change of times?—Not a great deal; there has been a little.

Is there any disposition among the farmers in the parish to do so?—No, there is not; they are not able to do it.

Is the rent of the cottages as high now as it was some years ago?—Yes; I do not know that there has been any reduction made.

There has not been a reduction in proportion to the reduction made in the rent of the land?—No.

Is your land much hurt by rainy seasons?—Yes.

Have you much dry land?—No; it is flat and low, and wet and stiff.

Therefore

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Therefore you would suffer more in wet seasons than those who have bigger ground?—Yes.

Is that owing to the want of means in the farmers to pay the men that they would employ?—There is no doubt that if the farmers had plenty of money, more men would find employment.

Would drainage be of use to your land?—Yes; we keep on at that every year. What do you drain with?—The drain plough, and then we put in cross drains.

Do you think as much drainage has been done of late years as used to be done?—Yes, I think there is, in our parish.

Are you to be understood to say that the farmers employ more people now than they did fifteen years ago?—No; I expect they might employ nearly as many.

Do you think there is any considerable difference in that respect?—No, I should think there is not any considerable difference.

You state that the necessities of life are cheaper now than they were six years ago?—Yes.

Do the Labourers live now as well as they did when those necessities of life were dearer?—No, they do not live so well.

Does your answer apply generally to all descriptions of Labourers?—They are not so well off, any of them, as they used to be.

Do you mean to say that a man receiving 10s. a week is not as well off as he was fifteen years ago when he received 12s.?—No. I can say that they are not so well off by some means as they were at that time of day; they do not get so much meat.

Did you not state that the women and children, ten years ago, were in the habit of earning something by spinning, in addition to the wages?—Yes.

Are the farmers in your neighbourhood considered to be in prosperous circumstances, or the reverse?—They are in worse circumstances than they were at that time of day.

Are they well off now?—No, by no means; there are a great many that begin to be very poor.

Has any arable land in your parish been laid down in pasture of late years?—There is a small portion laid down, but not much.

Your land, being stiff land, probably cannot be laid down without considerable expense?—It cannot.

Is it long before it will produce grass of good quality?—It is some time before it gets to a good quality.

Do you know what reduction in the rents must be made to enable the farmer to pay the increased wages of labour?—I cannot say how much; but if the Poor Rate was lowered we should not mind about the rent then; but the tax comes so very heavy that it makes the land so dear.

You are understood to have said that the increased wages of labour cannot be continued?—They cannot, if the rents remain so large.

You do not know what reduction of rent must be made to enable the farmer to make these payments?—No; it must be a great reduction; but there is a difference of parishes.

How many men are you in the habit of employing constantly?—There is a difference in the time of year; sometimes nine or ten.

What is your outlay for labour in the course of the year?—I am not able to explain that.

How many men do you employ constantly?—About nine or ten; sometimes ten or eleven. I reckon the servants I have in the house.

Do you plough with two horses?—No; we want four with some land.

What wages were formerly paid to those employed on the land or on digging gravel last year?—Eight shillings a week, an able man; the able men that have two children and upwards.

How much have the other men?—Sevenpence a day.

How much does a single man receive according to the new agreement?—If
227. E 3 a single

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a single man is over twenty-one years, he is to have 9s. a week upon the roads, and 12s. on a farm; a man from eighteen to twenty-one, 1s. a day on the roads, and 9s. a week on a farm; and from fifteen to eighteen, they are to have 9d. a day.

You stated those increased wages were given in the hope and expectation that some relief would be given to the farmer?—Yes.

Do you mean a relief by Government, or a relief by the Landlords?—I am sure I do not know.

Have the Labourers in your parish gardens?—They have.

Have any of them small allotments of land?—No, they have not.

What is the amount of the Poor's Rate in your parish on the pound in the course of the year?—Four and twenty shillings last year.

Are the Poor's Rates paid with difficulty by the farmers?—We are obliged to pay them.

Are they short of money to pay them?—We are compelled to pay them, if we can raise money, or we should have a distress.

Is either of the farms you hold some of the best land in the parish?—I expect I have got some very good land and some very poor land.

Is your land as good as any other in the parish?—It is as good as the average, I expect.

You have stated that you have nine men employed in your farms, and that that was the same number as you employed when you first knew it?—Yes.

You state that you paid those men when you first knew that farm 12s. a week?—Yes.

You have been of late paying them 10s. a week?—Yes.

You have stated that every thing was much dearer ten years ago than it is now?—Yes, no doubt.

Then how do you make out that those Labourers to whom you now pay the 10s., and did pay the 12s., are not as well off under the present circumstances?—Their wives used to earn, perhaps, 2s. a week by spinning.

The difference is that the wives and children cannot now earn any money; but as far as the men's wages go, that commands as much of the necessaries of life as it did at that time?—Yes; I should think at 10s. a week it would buy as much as it did at that time at 12s.

Would it not buy rather more?—I should think it would.

You stated that a farmer paying 3s. 6d. for threshing wheat, now pays a higher price in proportion to wheat than he formerly did at 4s.?—Yes.

Have you made any alteration since you came to the farm in the price of your Labourers' cottages?—No, I have not.

Is the rent of those cottages included in the rent of your farm?—Yes.

Are you aware what you pay to your landlord for those cottages?—No, I do not know what I pay to my landlord; they are valued in the rent.

Have you had your rent reduced?—Yes; I have only one house, that I have taken for one that pays me no rent.

You, having had your rent reduced, and having this cottage as a part, have you reduced the rent to your Labourer?—No, I have not reduced his rent.

Did you use to give beer at that time?—Yes, we did when he was threshing the wheat.

You employ the same number of constant Labourers, you say; did you employ more occasional Labourers formerly?—I do not recollect that we did.

For draining, or any thing of that kind?—No; I should think we have done as much of that of late as we did formerly.

Some of your Labourers live in your own house?—Yes.

Is it the case generally in the parish that the farmers have Labourers boarding with their families?—Yes; the farmers, most of them, have servants boarding in their houses.

Do you think that is as much the case now as it used to be ten or twelve years ago?—Yes; I think rather more.

The

The farmers begin to think it is better for themselves and the parish to have young men boarding in the family?—We consider it cheaper to have a man in the house, and to give him a little wages, than to give him 10 s. a week upon the farm.

Do you find many young men are willing to hire themselves in that way?—They would rather get into service if they could.

How many Labourers are there living in your house?—It is a family concern; we keep houses in both places; and I have three at one house and two at the other, besides boys.

What do you give those Labourers that board in the house?—Two shillings a week in the winter.

What is their food?—Bread and country cheese, and fat meat, and bacon, and pork, and such like.

What do those who receive 10 s. live on?—Some of them do not get any thing more than bread. If a man has only a wife and one or two children who work on the farm, he may do better than those that work on the road.

How do the cottagers generally live?—Some of them get a little meat and a little cheese, perhaps; but they have hard work, for they have a rent to pay: those men who have two children are obliged to pay that rent; but those who have more children than two the parish pays part of rent—1 s. per week.

Have the rents of cottages in your parish been reduced lately?—No, I do not believe they have.

What were the rents of those cottages ten years ago?—I expect they were the same; I have one that I have lowered.

Do you know of any other cottage in the parish the rent of which has been lowered?—No; but there are a good many cottages belonging to the parish where they pay no rent.

You do not know of any one instance of reduction of rent for any other cottage?—No; they pay more or less, according to the ground attached to their cottage.

You stated that one of your farms was tithe-free; if it was not tithe-free you would give less rent for it?—Yes, I conclude so.

Have the poor people any turf at all?—No.

Have you heard of any people going abroad from any of the parishes in your neighbourhood?—I have heard a talk of it; one family went from our parish.

Was that lately?—About three years ago.

Was that a poor family?—Yes.

Have any accounts been received from them?—There was a letter came back to say that they did not wish to come back again.

Have you heard any talk in your parish what others said; whether they should like to go or not?—No. Two or three families have applied to go to America, and the parish has persevered, and tried to send them; then they have always got out of the mind of it.

Single men do not like going, even as soldiers, do they?—No, they do not.

Do you know to what part of America that family to which you have referred went?—No, I do not.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till to-morrow, Twelve o'clock.

Mr.
Richard Hollway,
8 December,
1839.

Die Jovis, 9th Decembris 1830.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *Charles Wetherell* is called in; and Examined, as follows:Rev.
*Charles Wetherell.*9 December,
1830.

YOU are Rector of Byfield, in Northamptonshire?—Yes.

Are you a Magistrate?—No.

Are you resident at Byfield?—Generally resident.

In what part of Northamptonshire is Byfield?—The southern part, near Daventry; that is our post town.

Is there any land in your parish occupied by the Poor for their own benefit?—There is.

By whom is it let to them, and in what quantities?—It is let by myself, and in quarter and half acres.

At what rents?—At a rent of 30 s. per acre, which was the rent the farmer paid.

How long have the cottagers held it?—Since the commencement of the year 1825.

What results have you experienced from those lettings?—The results have not been exactly what I had anticipated. I had hoped to see a considerable reduction in the Poor Rates; but the letting of land to the Poor does not thoroughly satisfy me; let in that manner, at least.

To what cause do you attribute that?—In a great measure to an attempt on the part of the farmers to take advantage of every act of charity, so that I find them disposed to say to a poor man who wants employment, "Go to the Rector." When I first let the land to the Poor, an understanding took place between the farmers and myself, that they would employ a Labourer who took a quarter or half an acre of land from me, to benefit himself, before they employed another Labourer, in order to encourage a man who was attempting by extra industry to benefit himself.

Have they not done so?—They have not done so to the extent I expected. They have not employed them in preference, but have rather endeavoured to say to a poor man, "As you have this advantage, you are not in such great need of employment; go work in your garden plot." It is sometimes a source of reproach to them.

Do you mean to say that they have refused parish employment, or that they have refused to employ them on their own farms, in consequence of their holding those plots?—They have refused to employ them on their own farms in some instances; and, because there was a necessity of relief, they have compelled the men to go to work upon the roads. There is an enormous evil in that permission, which I believe is a portion of the Poor Law at present; that Labourers may be employed upon the roads.

At what wages are they employed upon the roads?—In some measure according to their necessities; a single man and a married man would have different wages: I should say, from 4 s. to 6 s., and in some cases 7 s.

Is there any further allowance made in proportion to the family?—Possibly there may be with respect to those who work upon the roads, but not with respect to those who have garden plots, and are in regular employment.

When they unite the two characters of working upon the roads and having gardens, is there then no difference made between married and single persons?—Yes, certainly; a married man has more; but in general we have found that the advantage a man has in receiving a garden plot, is sufficient to prevent his coming, for an extra child or two, for what is called head money.

What wages are the farmers in the habit of paying to the persons employed upon their farms?—I should presume about 8 s. to 10 s.

Wet and dry, or only on fine days?—If it is a wet day, they send them to work upon the roads; if it is a fine day, they employ them upon the land; but not in all cases.

Do they send their own workmen to work on the roads on a wet day?—No; only the occasional Labourer: the man cannot work exactly upon the roads on a

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wet day, therefore he does nothing, but he receives his pay from the Parish Book under the description of employment upon the roads, or "employment."

Under whose charge are the Labourers employed on the road set to work?—They are supposed to be under the Assistant Overseer's inspection; but they have appointed one of the workmen themselves to superintend the others. This is such an enormous evil in our parish, that we have just agreed, in connection with another parish, to have an Assistant Surveyor of the Roads, whose office, I trust, will be superseded by another plan, which has been lately tried, for the first time, during these six weeks, in our parish; a sort of Labour Rate, not sanctioned by the law certainly, but to try how far, if it can be consented to among the farmers themselves, it may be beneficial towards the employment of Labourers on the land instead of the roads.

What are the Rates in your parish?—The Rates last year were seven levies at one shilling in the pound, on a Survey taken at the time of the inclosure, about fifty years since.

At the full rent put down in that Survey, or any proportion?—At the full rent at the time of the inclosure.

How large is the parish?—Nearly 8,000 acres.

What is about the present rent of the parish?—I do not think I can state that, there are so many farmers who are proprietors of land.

You have stated the rent of the land you have let to the poor to be 50s., at the same rate it was let to the farmer; is the land much of the same quality in the parish, or does it vary?—That is some of the very best land in the parish. There are some small quantities let at a higher rent. There were about two or three and forty acres let at that price, and the farmer gave it up for the benefit of the Poor. It is near the village.

Is there a large portion of inferior land?—There is some, but it varies a good deal. What proportion is the assessment supposed to bear to the real value of the land?—I should think it has increased nearly three fifths.

Do you know at what amount your own land is stated in the valuation made fifty years ago?—That part which is let to the Poor is valued, I believe, at 21s. or 22s. I presume it has increased about three fifths.

Has any large quantity of land been brought into cultivation within the last fifty years?—It was all brought into cultivation at the time of the inclosure fifty years ago.

What proportion does the land which was inclosed under the Act fifty years ago, bear to the whole extent of land in the parish?—I cannot state the proportion, as I did not know the parish at that time.

Do you pay taxes out of the 50s. a year you get as rent; the Poor Rate and the Highway Rate, and so on?—I do pay a Highway Rate, but the Parish agreed not to ask for the levy of the Poor Rate.

Then it is free of Rate?—Yes; it is a field of only 25 acres, which I let to the Poor.

Have you let it to them tithe-free?—Yes; it is rectorial land.

What is the population of the parish?—According to the last Census in the year 1821, the number was 913.

Has it considerably increased since that time?—I think not.

How many Labourers are there generally out of employment during the winter months?—I hardly know how to answer that question exactly; there are more unemployed in the summer than in the winter.

How many Labourers are generally employed during the summer months?—I can state the amount of money paid for Labourers not employed regularly on the land; what is paid in the shape of relief. It was 250*l.* last year for the whole year. I think the proportions were 133*l.* for the summer, and 117*l.* for the winter half year.

What was the whole money raised by the Poor's Rates last year?—I believe about 877*l.*

What was the amount of the County Rate?—I cannot state.

Was there any Stone Warden's Rate or Highway Rate besides?—A Highway Rate for the repair of the roads, but not for digging stone, I believe.

What amount was raised for the Highway Rate?—I am not prepared to say.

Was that sum of money applied to the payment of unemployed Labourers, or in what manner was it applied?—Two hundred and fifty pounds were applied

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to unemployed Labourers, men who applied to the Overseers for employment or relief.

Were they able-bodied men?—Not the whole of them able-bodied men, but some aged men whom the farmers are not willing generally to employ upon the land, and who were sent to the Overseer, who desired them to go on the road.

When you state that that sum of money was paid to unemployed Labourers, do you mean that it was taken out of the Highway Rate, or out of the Poor Rate?—Out of the Poor Rate.

You do not know how the Highway Rate was applied?—I do not.

Was any part of that applied to the payment of unemployed Labourers?—I believe not.

Have you any method to propose, to render the letting the land in plots to the labouring Poor more extensively and permanently beneficial?—I would beg to call your Lordships' attention first to the Select Vestry Act, in which permission is given to the Overseers to take a portion of land, and to let it in plots to the Poor, under the 13th section; that permission, I presume, has not been generally adopted.

It is not adopted in your parish?—It is not; it is adopted in only one parish with which I am at all acquainted; but it appears to me that the letting of land to the Poor is popular, both among the Poor and among the Nobility and Gentry and Clergy, with the expectation of benefitting the poorer population to a large extent, and in the hope of effecting a reduction in the Poor Rate. It appears to me that the view we are almost compelled to take of the Poor Rate, does not afford us a correct estimation of it; that which is now paid for the relief of the Labourer is mixed up with that which is paid for the relief of the aged and sick and impotent, who come more especially under the Act of the 43d of Queen Elizabeth. If there were by any Return to either House of Parliament a separation of those two items of the Poor Rate, a more correct view might be taken of the evil which exists, and which might possibly be remedied. I would humbly represent that it has appeared to me that something in the shape of a Labour Rate would be very beneficial to compel the employment of Labourers upon the land. I should then respectfully propose, that land should be let to young men in a parish, who are coming forward into life, and who should be under an obligation to deposit a portion of the return they receive from that land in a Friendly Society, that they may put by something towards old age. I should presume that a labouring man having half an acre of land at a rent which a farmer would pay, ought to be able to clear on an average 5*l.* per annum.

Do you know any fact which leads you to that conclusion?—With respect to my own Labourers, who have half an acre of land, the general estimate I should make in respect of their profit would be, at a low average, 5*l.* This year one man said to me, I would not take 10*l.* for my crop on my half acre of land; and I have known them sometimes to clear 5*l.* by a quarter of an acre of land under spade culture. As far as we are able to ascertain, it seems that the letting of land to the Poor has not effected an object which it was hoped it would effect; I think it appears from Mr. Estcourt's case, and some others which have been tried in the county; in my own parish it has certainly failed of accomplishing that reduction of the Poor's Rate which I had hoped. In attempting to let more land to the Poor, I am hesitating, because I do not find those beneficial results I had hoped. I should like to see established a combination of the two systems already sanctioned by Parliament; that is, the Friendly Society system and the Garden Plot system. If there be any land in the parish belonging to the Poor, and which is omitted to be taken by the Overseers and let out to the Poor, it appears to me there should be some degree of compulsion, and the Poor should be compelled by contract, on entering upon such land, to lay by a proportion of their profits towards old age; or it might be taken of him in the shape of rent, and deposited on his account. Your Lordships have, no doubt, seen a plan for Friendly Societies on the system of the late Act of Parliament, drawn out by the Reverend Mr. Becher, Prebend of the Collegiate Church of Southwell, in Nottinghamshire.

You have stated that the effect of letting land to the Poor has not been to reduce the Rates as you had expected it would do; in consequence of that which you state to be an advantage accruing to them, have the comforts of the Poor been materially increased?—Materially.

Then

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Then the effect of letting land to them has been to increase their comforts, but not to reduce the Rates!—Just so; and by increasing their comforts now, when they become old and not able to cultivate the land perhaps so satisfactorily, they will come upon the parish possibly for a larger sum, having had their comforts increased, than if they had not had the land; especially if the land should be taken from them, they would be thrown as a heavier burthen upon the parish. I wish to make the benefit more permanent.

How do they cultivate this land in your parish?—With the spade.

In what manner do they cultivate it; what do they grow?—The general habit is to divide the plot into about three parts; one part is manured and set the first year with potatoes, the next year it is sown with wheat, and the third with peas or barley or vegetables.

Where do they procure the manure?—The potatoes, and the bran from the barley and wheat, enable them to keep a pig, and the manure is made by the straw; which I consider to be almost a necessary part of the letting of land to the Poor at any time to enable them to procure the manure.

How much wheat do they grow; how many bushels did they procure the last year, for instance?—I cannot say.

Do you conceive that the men who have land let to them in your own parish are better off than others?—Undoubtedly.

Then might not that have been the motive of the farmers for not giving them the preference?—It might have been their motive, but it is contrary to the agreement the farmers entered into.

What service would be a Labour Rate, if you do not fix the amount of wages to be given?—It appears to me to be very necessary that the amount of wages should be fixed by a sufficient authority for the whole parish—the authority of a magistrate; and in order to carry this system into effect, I should have proposed that Commissioners should be appointed who had a sufficient interest in the land.

Are not Friendly Societies in general very badly managed?—Unquestionably.

In point of fact, are there not many of them now in a state of insolvency?—I should presume so; but the system which is adopted by the Rev. Mr. Becher is calculated so correctly as to prevent the danger of insolvency.

In point of fact, the Friendly Societies go on very well until there is great distress, or till a great number of the people become old; is not that the case?—That is the case in the calculations made by the old Societies.

Have not the old taken less allowed to be defective?—Certainly; because in my own parish a man is required to pay to a Friendly Society only 13s. a year, and that will not be sufficient to insure him relief in sickness and casualties.

What is he to receive in case of necessity?—Seven shillings a week in case of sickness.

In point of fact, do you not believe that there would be hardly a Friendly Society now left in existence if one clause did not generally appear in the Rules of those Friendly Societies, that if a man proposes to dissolve the Society, his making that motion excludes him from all future benefit?—Most probably so.

In point of fact, instead of being at this moment a blessing to the Poor, they are very much the reverse, are they not?—I can speak decidedly with respect to my experience of the one in my own parish.

Are not the Friendly Societies generally held in public-houses?—Yes.

Is it not notorious that more money is collected in those public-houses than is for the benefit or could be the original intention of those Societies?—After they have been in existence for a certain time, and they have arrived at the summit, and begin to go down hill, perhaps their annual dinner costs more than the receipts of the whole year.

Mr. Becher's scheme excludes, or professes to exclude, all those inconveniences, does it not?—Yes, it does.

You conceive that Mr. Becher's plan would supersede most of the inconveniences of the present system?—Certainly. I had thought of the importance of such a system before I knew of his plan being in existence, as the Savings Bank did not seem calculated to reach the circumstances of the Labourer.

You stated that if a single man had half an acre of land let to him, you thought his net profits ought to be 5*l*.?—Yes.

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If that man got full employment in the parish, you think he might lay by a certain sum of money in a Friendly Society?—Yes, 2*l.* or 2*l.* 10*s.*

Would you make it compulsory on the parish to give that man labour?—Yes.

Would you also fix the amount of wages to be given to that man?—Yes.

Would you fix the amount of rent a landlord should ask?—The Commissioners should every seven years regulate the rate of rent for the garden plots.

Do you know what the profits of the farmers are?—Something respecting them, but not very precisely.

Do you think they are in a prosperous situation at this moment?—No; I think the farmer is the sufferer at present; that the price of labour is too high in proportion to the price of produce.

Have you made any calculation to prove to the Committee that a Labourer can make 5*l.* net profit a year on half an acre of land, for which he pays 25*s.* in your own parish?—I have not done it this year, neither have I generally made that calculation, excepting from their own statement to me of how much they have cleared: they have represented their profits to be from 7*l.* to 10*l.* With respect to the rent, I apprehend it is not so much after the reduction of the rent.

How many bushels of wheat do you think those persons grow upon their land per acre; can you furnish a statement of what they did grow last year?—Not at present; I could procure such information against another day.

[The Witness is requested to procure that information, and furnish the same to the Committee.]

Do those people you have let those half acres of land to pay any thing for their cottages?—Yes.

What rent do they pay annually for their cottages?—Perhaps from 2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*

Have they any gardens attached to them?—In some instances very small gardens.

How far distant is the land they rent from their cottages?—A quarter of a mile, perhaps, from the nearer, and half a mile from the further part of the village.

Are those plots of land fenced in, or open?—Open.

You stated that the farmers in your district were in the habit of giving the Labourers 9*s.* a week?—That is about the average price of wages.

You have stated, that in a wet day it was the practice of the farmer to send those Labourers to work upon the roads?—Not all of them; some of their Labourers; particularly any of those they have taken occasionally: they generally have some who are accounted regular Labourers; something like the carter, the thresher, and so on.

How much do the men receive when they are so sent upon the road on a wet day?—Perhaps 10*d.* or 1*s.* a day.

Do they do much for it?—They sit by the road side and smoke a pipe, do not continue the full time, and do very little work.

What do they give in your district for threshing this year?—It is generally done by grate work.

How much can an able-bodied good thresher gain in a week?—Between 11*s.* and 12*s.*

Do you know the amount paid by the quarter for threshing?—I cannot recollect at present.

How many men are generally out of employ during the winter months?—I should presume generally between twenty and thirty.

What do the Labourers that are in employment regularly by the farmers live upon?—Bacon, bread and potatoes are the principal articles.

What do their families live upon?—The same, with the addition of tea.

How do the men employed upon the roads exist upon the small sum given to them?—They are very liable to get into debt.

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Do you find that the men to whom you give plots of land are more industrious and better men than those who have not had the land given to them?—The farmers in the parish generally represent them to be improved in those particulars.

Are the men very eager to get possession of those plots of land?—Very eager; so that I am continually applied to by persons who have not had land, and they will invent a little tale to make me suppose that a plot will be vacant, that such a person is about to give up his plot; and I think at this time I could let from fifteen to twenty half acres; but I am rather wishing to wait to see whether any thing can be possibly done with respect to such a kind of Friendly Society as would run parallel with the garden plots.

You would wish to combine the letting of such plots with the payment by the tenants of a part to the Friendly Society?—Yes.

Do you mean to say that the Labourers in your neighbourhood are enabled to have a meat meal a day?—Generally speaking, they have a meal of meat for supper, if not for dinner; they take a small piece of bacon out to the field with them generally for dinner. Then, perhaps, the poor of any parish are not in so destitute a condition as in many others; there is much done for them in Schools and Clothing Societies, and arrangements are made for their having coals, in summer, so that they have not to pay for them in the winter; which, together with the garden produce, prevents their being in so destitute a condition as in some other parts.

Is yours an agricultural parish?—Entirely so.

Is the land arable or pasture?—Principally arable.

Is it generally good?—Generally good.

Is the Rate established on the grass land as well as the arable?—Yes.

What do you reckon to be the full pay of a good Labourer?—From £10s.

Do the farmers pay at that rate?—Very nearly; but not in all instances; only to some of the best Labourers.

Is it the practice in your county for the parish to send men on what is called the road?—That has been abolished in my parish.

What is done with the men out of employment in the parish, and who apply for relief?—They are all sent upon the roads.

At what rate are they paid?—From 4s. to 6s. a week.

Are they expected to work for that pay the same as other Labourers?—That is not attended to with so much precision as perhaps it might be.

They are merely sent on the road as a pretence, and are not overlooked?—Yes.

You say there are fewer men out of employ in the winter than in the summer in your parish; to what is that owing?—I should presume that it is in consequence of the threshing.

Are there any threshing machines in your parish?—None belonging to any farmer in the parish; now and then one has been brought into the parish, when a farmer has wished to thresh out corn in a very hasty manner; but the general report of the farmers is, that it is not beneficial, on account of the breaking of the straw.

Is not the man whom a farmer employs to thresh, a man in whom he has more confidence than in the generality of his Labourers?—Yes, certainly.

Is there any magistrate resident in this parish?—No.

What is the custom with respect to parish relief in case of a Labourer being dissatisfied with the pay he receives; does the magistrate make a calculation of the number of people in the family in proportion to the sum received?—Yes.

Do you know what is reckoned to be sufficient for the support of a family?—I have in my hand the regulation made by the magistrates; they have agreed to give a man and his wife 7s.

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To make up the sum received for the road 7s.?—Yes. A man and his wife and one child, 8s.; the wages of young men above twenty-one years of age to be made up to 5s.; above fourteen and under twenty-one, 4s.; between the ages of ten and fourteen, 3s. per week: the magistrates recommend to good and industrious Labourers 10s. per week.

Is that higher than the scale heretofore allowed by the magistrates?—I presume very much the same; this was put into my hand last Saturday, by the Overseer.

The question referred to the rate of allowance previous to the last few weeks?—I have been from home for the last two months, but I am not aware that there is much difference.

How many half acres have you let?—The whole field contains twenty-five acres, and there are seventy tenants upon it.

Had you much difficulty in procuring the assent of the farmers to the plan of a Labour Rate?—No.

What is the difference between the Rate raised on the grass land and that raised on the arable land?—I am not prepared to answer that question, but will procure a copy of the Plan.

Is there any land called Poor's land belonging to the parish?—There is; there are two plots of land; the one is to amend the foot-road or causeway, and the other to provide fuel for the Poor.

To whom is that land let out?—It is generally let once a year, by a public auction, to farmers.

No portion of it is let out to Labourers?—No; for it is rather inconveniently situated, as is frequently the case with inclosures.

Do the cottages in your parish generally belong to the great proprietors of land, or not?—They belong to a great many different persons, not principally to the large owners.

You stated that the rent of the cottages varies from 2*l.* to 3*l.* 10*s.*?—It does.

Those that let at 2*l.* generally are without a garden, probably?—Yes, and very small and inconvenient.

Have those let at 3*l.* and 3*l.* 10*s.* generally a small garden?—They have.

Is that about an eighth of an acre?—Not so much as that; much smaller than that. There has been land let in my parish to the Poor, for the growth of potatoes, this year, at the rent of 10*l.* per acre.

Are not potatoes reckoned a very exhausting crop?—It has been generally supposed to be so, but the Poor have found that manuring the land for potatoes, it will produce wheat afterwards.

Do you think the land you have let is deteriorated or improved since you let it to the Poor?—Improved, certainly.

You state the land has been let for potatoe ground, at a rent of 10*l.* an acre; does it consist, generally, of slips of land?—No; a regular portion of land out of the midst of a field.

Was that good land?—Very good land, taken by some of the Poor who could not procure garden plots. I have asked whether it was greatly to their benefit; they have said, "We do not expect to gain much by it; but we do not know how to do without potatoes."

Is fuel cheap in your neighbourhood?—We can procure Staffordshire coals, and have them brought up within five miles at 1*s.* a hundred, that is, 20*s.* a ton; then there are five miles land carriage.

How much does it cost bringing them those five miles?—About 3*d.*

Do the farmers prosecute that course of husbandry at all, you have referred to, of having potatoes first and wheat afterwards?—In some of the smaller farms they have let their land for potatoes, and do not consider it at all injured afterwards for a wheat crop.

Have

Have you heard whether the men taking the land at 10*l.* an acre have made good their engagements; have paid their rent?—Yes.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

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[*The Witness afterwards delivers in the following Statements, which are read.*]

STATEMENT of the PRODUCE of HALF AN ACRE in the Parish of Byfield, cultivated by Spade Husbandry.

YEARS.	POTATOES.	WHEAT.	BARLEY.
1828.	Number of Bushels, 80	Number of Bushels, 8½	Number of Bushels, 9
1829.	WHEAT. Number of Bushels, 5 This year the Wheat fell down before it was reaped, and turned out a bad crop.	BARLEY. Number of Bushels, 9½	POTATOES. Number of Bushels, 110 This was a good year for Potatoes.
1830.	BARLEY. Number of Bushels, 8½	POTATOES. Number of Bushels, 61 This was the worst year of the three for Potatoes.	WHEAT. Number of Bushels, 6½

What quantity of manure is supposed sufficient to keep the half acre in cultivation?—Four large loads, for the third part of half an acre, of good dung, or four quarters of lime, will be sufficient to keep the ground in a good state of cultivation: that is equal to twenty-four loads per acre.

N.B.—In the above Statement no value is put upon the straw; and it should be observed, that the opportunity afforded by this system of enabling the Labourer to keep a pig considerably augments the profit.

At a Vestry held at Byfield, pursuant to notice, on the 16th day of October 1830, it is resolved to adopt the following System for the management of the Poor during the present Winter; viz.

The Overseers or their Deputy are to make out two Lists of the Labourers, and a List of boys between the ages of ten and sixteen, the sons of Labourers, or depending upon daily labour for their subsistence. The first shall contain all those married men with families who are capable of regular labour. The second those who, from age, infirmity, or other causes, are not likely to obtain wages as high as the former. Lists having been made out and laid before the Vestry, and having been now carefully corrected by them, are adopted; from time to time they shall be corrected by the Vestry, by striking out or inserting other names, as occasion may require.

This Plan shall commence on Monday the 18th of October; and the Overseers, at the expiration of every six weeks, shall pay to the occupiers, out of the Poor Rate, the following allowances for Labourers and boys, viz.: for those contained in the first List of able Labourers, the sum of 9*d.* per day; and for those contained in the second List, the sum of 6*d.* per day; and for boys the sum of 2*d.*; provided that the sums to be allowed within each period of six weeks shall in no case exceed the amount which each occupier is liable to pay to a rate at 1*s.* in the pound.

But no allowance shall be made for Labourers or boys whose wages, bond *fact* paid, shall not be at least 1*s.* 4*d.* per day for the first List, and 1*s.* for the second, and for the boys 4*d.* respectively; or unless they are really employed by the party, and not transferred or let out by him to any other person.

The periods of six weeks shall be kept distinct, and no labourers employed in any one of them shall be claimed for in any other.

The allowance to persons holding farms, of which more than one-half in quantity is in permanent pasture or meadow, or farms not exceeding 150*l.* per annum, shall be 10*d.* per day for the first List, instead of 9*d.*, and 7*d.* per day for the second List, instead of 6*d.*; but no difference shall be made in respect to boys.

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The claims for additional allowance by pasture farmers, or by small farmers, shall be previously submitted to and decided upon by the Vestry, and an order made to the Overseer to make the allowance accordingly.

The Overseer shall provide a Book, to be prepared in a form herunto annexed, marked 1, and insert therein the names of the Labourers contained in the two Lists approved of by the Vestry, for whom allowances are to be made; and at the end of each week they shall inquire from them, or learn by other means, the names of the occupiers by whom they have been each day employed; and at the end of each six weeks they shall obtain from each occupier an account of his claims for Labourers employed by him, and shall carefully insert the same in the proper column of the book.

Within one week after the end of every six weeks the Overseers shall make out from that book an account of the allowance to which every occupier is entitled, and shall enter the same either in a separate book, or in a separate part of the same book, according to the Form herunto annexed, marked 2, and shall lay the same before the Vestry, and shall extract therefrom and deliver to each occupier a statement of the allowance to which he is entitled for the last period of six weeks.

Every occupier claiming further allowance shall appeal to the next Vestry, which shall decide all disputes conclusively, confirm the Overseers' account, with such corrections as they see fit, and direct the allowance to be paid. The sum total of such payments for every six weeks, being so confirmed, shall then be carried to the general account of disbursements.

The Book, containing names of the Labourers in both the Lists, shall be open at all reasonable times to the inspection of all persons assessed to the Poor Rate, and their agents.

No relief, in addition to wages, shall be given to Labourers employed, or who have had the opportunity of employment, under this plan, or who have been discharged for misconduct, unless by the express order of a Magistrate, except the usual provision for large families, common to all the Labourers in the parish.

(signed) *Chas Wetherell.* *W^m Camper.*
Thos Carter. *W^m Thornton.*
W^m Barnes. *W^m Coates.*
Geo Hitchcock. *W^m Brunley.*

NAMES of LABOURERS in *B36*fold Parish, 18th October 1830.

FIRST CLASS OF MEN.	SECOND CLASS.	BOYS.
Adams, Thomas.	Boot, Thomas.	Bliss, Edward.
Allen, John.	Blackwell, Edward.	Gibbs, James.
Austin, Robert.	Boll, Thomas, sen.	Jeffs, John.
&c. &c.	&c. &c.	&c. &c.

EMPLOYMENT of MEN and BOYS, Six Weeks, from Monday, 18th October, to Saturday, 27th November 1830.

NAMES.	First Week.	Second Week.	Third Week.	Fourth Week.	Fifth Week.	Sixth Week.
FIRST CLASS:						
Adams, Thos.	1 Mr. Dodd.	5 Mr. Dodd.	6 Mr. Dodd.	4 Mr. Dodd.	6 Mr. Dodd.	6 Mr. Dodd.
Allen, John.	6 Mr. Bachelor.	1 Mr. Bachelor.	- - -	4 Mr. Harris.	- - -	6 Mr. Horn.
Burbridge, Wm.	3 Mr. Thacker 1 Mr. Bachelor.	2 unwell - 2 on Roads - 2 Mr. Thacker.	4 Mr. Thacker.	6 Mr. Thacker.	6 on Roads.	3 Mr. Thacker. 3 on Roads.

SIX WEEKS' ACCOUNT of ALLOWANCES to OCCUPIERS, ending Saturday, 27th November 1830.

OCCUPIERS' NAMES.	First Week.	Second Week.	Third Week.	Fourth Week.	Fifth Week.	Sixth Week.	TOTAL DAYS.		
Mr. FANTHOMER.								£ s. d.	£ s. d.
First Class :									
Richard Dury - - -	6	6	6	6	6	6	36		
William Higham - - -	6	6	3	5	6	6	32		
William Hartwell - - -	-	-	-	5	6	6	17		
							85 at 9d.	3	2 9
Second Class :									
William Gubbins - - -	4	3	-	-	-	-	7		
Thomas Ludgate - - -	5	6	3	-	-	-	14		
Thomas Pollard - - -	1	6	6	6	6	6	25		
							46 at 6d.	1	2 -
Boys :									
John Dury - - -	6	6	6	6	6	6	36		
William Gubbins - - -	5	6	6	6	6	6	35		
							71 at 2d.	-	12 10
Mr. DODD.									4 18 7
First Class :									
Thomas Adams - - -	1	5	6	4	6	6	28		
John Allen - - -	6	6	6	4	6	6	34		
							62 at 9d.	2	6 6
Boys :									
William Wiggins - - -	6	6	6	6	6	6	36 at 2d.	-	6 -
									2 12 6

Richard Pollen, Esquire, is called in; and Examined, as follows:

YOU are Chairman of the Quarter Sessions of Hampshire?—I am.

You have paid much attention to the administration of the Poor Laws in Hampshire?—Yes, I have, considerably; but the information I could give would be more applied to spade cultivation in North Wiltsire. I have attended a good deal to that subject in North Wiltshire for ten years, and I think it has been exceedingly successful in that part of the country. I came to some property about sixteen or eighteen years ago, which had been particularly neglected; a good deal of it is very poor wet land. Amongst other soil there was a considerable heath, that I enclosed about the year 1820, and applied a certain portion of it to the cottagers who lived in my village.

What is the parish?—It is in the parish of Malmesbury, in the tithing of Rodbourne; that tithing consisted of about 1,500 acres; a portion of it was dairy country, about 1,000 acres grass land, about 350 arable, about 50 wood and waste land, and about 100 acres of heath.

What was the population of the tithing?—About 160, as nearly as I can remember; and I should say about 18 cottage families. I set apart eight acres of this poor land to dedicate to this purpose for the poor cottagers, and I gave them all, as nearly as I could make it, about half an acre apiece. I gave them only half an acre because I did not wish it to interfere with their earning the common wages of labour in the tithing, and also considering that half an acre was quite as much as a poor family could possibly cultivate and manure with any prospect of success; that was in the year 1820: this plan has been pursued until the year 1830, and very successfully, in my opinion. I should, perhaps, state to your Lordships, that when I first came to this Estate it was particularly neglected; my relation from whom I got the property had been a widow,

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I think, sixty years, and had never more than once, if once, visited the property; there was no resident clergyman in the village, and no mansion-house of any description; and I should say that the population of the village at that time were particularly dishonest, very great thieves; the greatest number of them were poachers, and a very uncivilized set of people altogether. I pursued this plan for ten years, and I can say now that the people are perfectly reformed; I think they are particularly honest and laborious, and industrious and contented.

What were the wages of labour when you came there?—I do not exactly recollect; but I should say, in the last year, to a married man, in the winter, they were about 1s. 4d. or 1s. 5d. a day; I am not certain, but I think the pay of a single man not more than 9d. a day.

Are you speaking of wages as paid by the parish or by the farmer when the men were in their employ?—I speak of wages paid by the farmer when they have been in their employ.

Do the farmers make a difference between a married and a single man, or is the difference made up out of the Rates?—I am not quite certain; but I should think, in most instances, the difference is made up out of the Rates.

What were the Rates in that parish when you commenced this system?—I would beg to state, that there is a very large portion of land which belonged to my parish, but not in my tithing, namely, near the town of Malmesbury, which is a borough town, to the amount of 500 acres. The year after my own inclosure, namely 1821, it was inclosed by Act of Parliament. The persons entitled to common rights over that land were the inhabitants of the borough of Malmesbury; I think they are called Capital Burgesses, Burgesses, Landholders, and Commoners. Under that Act twelve trustees were appointed, and a Clause to this effect was inserted in the Act of Parliament (it was divided into 280 shares; there was a certain quantity reserved, I think fifty acres, to pay contingent expenses, and, of course, a certain portion kept apart for roads and fences, and so on. That Clause was to this effect, that it prevented any person having one of those shares or allotments "from selling, letting, mortgaging, or converting their portion into any thing but tillage or garden, without the consent of the trustees;" in other words, it obliged them to cultivate it for their own individual support. In 1819, which was the year immediately before the inclosure of my particular tithing, the Rates of the whole parish amounted, in the year ending the 25th of March, to 2,074*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, and in the year ending the 25th of March last they amounted to 1,424*l.* 18*s.* Now, undoubtedly, during those eleven years, the Rates would have become much more heavy than they were in the preceding ten years, and for this reason, that there were a great many more payments made out of the assessment for the Poor to agricultural Labourers than there had been for any ten preceding years: that would arise from various causes; among others, that the farmers were very much depressed, and had pursued that system of making up wages out of the Rates much more than they had ever done in my recollection at any previous period. Your Lordships will perceive here that there was a difference of 649*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.* in those Rates, which I attribute, certainly, to the system of having given this land, not only in my own tithing, but in the part of the parish contiguous to the town of Malmesbury, to the poor people. I will beg to state a very beneficial result which, in my opinion, arises from giving such persons small pieces of land. In my part of Wiltshire a great part consists of dairy land: after the end of October, when the wheat sowing is over, there is very little absolutely necessary labour for the poor people, with the exception of hedging and ditching; that is the period of the year when those things are done: as to draining or extra labour, I do not think, at present, the farmers are in a situation to extend that in any very great measure; I think that the farmer cannot afford extra labour, nor, to any extent, draining; in point of fact, they certainly do not drain to any extent now, however valuable a labour it would be in that wet country. I think one other beneficial result would take place from this system, that certainly for six weeks in the winter, which is the season when we all know it is exceedingly difficult for a Labourer to get work; at that season, too, in which the farmer is particularly niggard in giving employment to the Labourer if he can help it; for six weeks at least of that time a pauper, having half an acre of land, would be usefully employed in digging out the furrows on his piece of wheat, and digging his ground for the spring crop of potatoes.

I also

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I also would wish to state in what way I have, generally speaking, desired them to cultivate that half acre: half of that they employ to wheat generally, and half to potatoes; those crops are perhaps once in three years changed to peas, beans or oats.

Is there any mansion-house built in this tithing since you first came into possession of the property?—Yes; in the year 1820 I fitted up a cottage for my own residence in this parish for the autumn months.

Do you not conceive that the tithing has been much benefited by your residing there?—Certainly, I do.

That would account for some part of the benefit which has accrued to the people in their good conduct as well as pecuniary benefit?—Yes, I think so, certainly. I should also state as a fact, that in the year 1820, when I came to reside in the tithing, no one of the persons whom I now call my pauper tenants had either a pigsty or a pig.

From your having given a good deal of attention to the subject, you have ascertained the condition of the labourers in your parish?—I have. I should also state that I am not at all aware, except in one instance, of those persons having applied for parish relief during that time; and that was a man of seventy-five years of age, who broke his arm by tumbling over a rail, and he had 5s. given him by the parish, and that was all. I should say, as far as I can form an opinion, that the system of spade husbandry is very far preferable to giving a person an opportunity of keeping a cow; and I would state this from circumstances which have occurred under my own observation. The only man in my parish who attempted to keep a cow had 40l. in money when he got the cow; he has been undoubtedly entirely ruined; he has lost all his money, and his cow is now sold. I should state one of the difficulties that a man would have in keeping a cow, which has been felt in this instance; in the first place, it is a speculation of rather too much magnitude for a common Labourer; the price of the cow must be an objection, and a man must have fodder and some kind of yard for the winter for the animal; and if by accident the cow dies, it is utterly impossible for that man to replace his stock; besides, it is an affair requiring rather too much time and attention for a common Labourer, for he will have no time to earn pecuniary wages, which I think very essential. My reason for particularly saying this is, that I think if a pauper has sufficient land or a cow, for instance, to make him above receiving the common wages of farmers, and not willing to be employed by them as a weekly Labourer, that directly sets the farmers very much against the system, they being, I need hardly say, sufficiently prejudiced against it already. I am quite aware this system may not suit all countries; mine is partly grass and partly corn; but I am quite sure, from a ten years' experience, that it would suit many countries, and those like my own it undoubtedly would suit. I would also state, that one of the great evils in my part of the country is decidedly the rent of cottages. I know in many instances the system of spade husbandry has failed; but I should say, amongst others, for one of these four reasons; at least it has been so in all the cases I have personally investigated:—first, the rental in many parts of Wiltshire. Much of the land is let to the paupers for spade husbandry by the farmers, sometimes by under-letting, sometimes by yeomen who have a portion of land. They let it out in this way, but they often make a large rent by it; they let it at the rate of 40s. or at least 30s. an acre; that would cease immediately to be a boon to a poor person: in my opinion 40s. is a great deal too much; and from the avidity of those persons to try this system, they will give any thing which is asked; I have known them give 60s. an acre for it. Another great difficulty in this system is the situation with regard to the land and the cottage in which the man may live. One of the great difficulties I have found is the cutting out of the manure for those people; the manure which is produced by their pig is all they have: the farmers are very much prejudiced upon that subject, and as they must be the persons to lend the team in the winter, they charge them very high for it. I think, for instance, in my tithing they charge in a very short winter's day for a cart and two horses at the rate of 12s. a day, which is enormous; and I have had serious thoughts of setting up a cart and horse for those poor people, and let it be employed at any other time, in any other way, and receive for a cart and one horse 3s. or 3s. 6d. a day. I should say to any gentleman living in the neighbourhood, and having a farm in hand, that would be very easily accomplished. I consider that the situation of the

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land to the cottage is therefore very important, because if it is very near, of course a cart with two horses at 12s. would do twice the work. In many of the cases of failure which I have inquired into, I have generally found the land selected for the poor people exceedingly bad, probably the worst in the parish, and at a great distance from their respective cottages. On an average, the land I gave to the paupers was about a quarter of a mile from each cottage.

Is it open or inclosed land?—It is now inclosed, but was open in 1820; I inclosed it at my own expense. Those half acres were not fenced; there were merely landmarks, so that each person knew his portion; it would be too expensive to inclose every half acre.

Do you receive any rent from it now?—Yes. It was then in a state of furze and briars, and wet, and I let it at the same rent as I did that to my farmers, 16s. an acre, to be broken up and cleansed from the furze and briars. I let it to the farmers for a term of fourteen years; I let it to the cottagers at the same rent, but without any term. During the whole of the ten years the rent has been most cheerfully paid. Then I should say, thirdly, in regard to causes of failure, I have known this done, that upon a pauper taking possession, the terms have been what I call rather oppressive and illiberal; it has been said, "if you ever apply for parish relief under any circumstances, you shall immediately quit the land." I think this so alarms their jealousies, that they think it a mere scheme on the part of the orders above them to get rid of their legal right, namely, parish relief; and for that reason I think they have frequently refused it. In the fourth place, I should say that the quantity, generally speaking, is too large; more than half an acre I consider too large for the two reasons I have already given; namely, that a cottager and his family cannot manage and manage more than half an acre, and that if he had more than half an acre, perhaps he would feel himself in some degree independent of the farmer's employ. I stated just now that I thought one great source of evil in the country is the rent of cottages; I am afraid it would be very difficult in many cases to prevent that, and for this reason: a great quantity of those houses belong to old servants, for instance, and masons and carpenters, who frequently speculate in that way. I should say that the income of a vast number of persons in that class of life proceeds from their possessing houses of that description, for which they ask a most enormous rent. In the neighbouring tithing to mine a great number of houses, I believe, are not in hand; they do not belong to the great proprietors; they are some of them copyholds and leaseholds, which I have occasion to know belong to some of the persons of the description I mention; several to old servants. 5*l.* and as much as 6*l.* is the rent for some of those cottages, with scarcely any garden at all; not bigger than this table.

Do not they take in lodgers?—I think not; they are very small.

Are they newly run up?—No; they are old, but of very small dimensions. That is an evil, of course, that the great proprietor cannot correct, for the property of the person happening to have them cannot be interfered with. I merely state that as an evil, and it is certainly one of great extent, and I am afraid very difficult to remedy, unless large landed proprietors in future should be rather averse to granting portions of the waste to speculators of this description. Applications are often made in this way to stewards and agents, and one is not aware at the time of the evil one is entailing on one's parish by granting pieces of waste (unless under very severe stipulations) to be built upon in this way; undoubtedly they are the origin of a great deal of pauperism and misery. In the parish of Malmesbury, of which I have stated the common to have been broken up, 280 shares produced considerably more than, I think, a correct quantity to give to a poor person; I think, according to a rude calculation, that would give them more than an acre apiece, after deducting for roads and hedges and ditches, and so on. It was impossible to prevent that in this instance, because they had rights which nobody could control as belonging to the borough, and in the next place it was absolutely necessary to fence all those portions given to persons in perpetuity; therefore probably confining it to half an acre in that case would have been preposterous; the expense of fencing and allotting those small portions would have been very great. There is another reason I should state why I think, under the circumstances of the place I particularly allude to, more than half an acre might not be injurious; in the first place

place, it was so contiguous to the town that manure might almost always be bought sufficient for the extent of each allotment very cheaply; and in a town of that kind one of my objections would not apply, namely, that there was no predial employment, no farming labour, to be obtained.

[The Witness is requested to furnish an Account of the Cropping of the Land, and the Produce.—See Appendix.]

Have any of your pauper tenants joined in the late disturbances in the county of Wilts?—None; on the contrary they have come forward to a man to defend property if necessary; there has been within seven miles of this place some disturbances, at a place called Sherston, but they did not at all join it.

Are you acquainted with the mode of life of those cottagers?—Yes, I am.

Were you acquainted with it when first you came into that county?—I should rather wish to speak from the year 1820, because from 1820 to 1830 it has been under my personal observation.

Have you observed that their condition and conduct have materially improved since they have been in possession of that land?—Most decidedly.

Is that improvement going on, or is it stationary?—I should say that that comfort is not stationary; one of the reasons is, that, in the first place, the quantity of potatoes they grow upon that portion of land produces, with the corn which they grow on the other quarter of the acre, nearly enough for the sustenance of the family during the whole year, or a great way towards it.

Can you state the wages?—The wages last year were about 1s. 4d. or 1s. 5d. a day to a married man, and about 9d. or 10d. to a single man. In that tithing particularly it is very much the system, which I have strongly inculcated, to do the work by task-work; in almost all cases the quarrying, (for we have a good many stone quarries there, and it is a very wet country, and necessary to repair our roads a good deal,)—in all those cases the work is done by measurement.

Are there many persons employed by the parish entirely for the winter-months?—I do not know, for I am not residing in the country in the winter, being called to London by professional engagements.

Is it a prevailing practice of the parishes round you to make a distinction between a married man and an unmarried man?—Decidedly. I should state, always accompanied with this very unfortunate recommendation to the single man, that if he is not satisfied, he may go to some other place where they can do better, when in the next parish there is precisely the same system of expulsion pursued: I have heard it distinctly stated at a meeting of magistrates, when single men came to complain of their wages, as a recommendation to fight out, as it is called, and go elsewhere.

What is the lowest wages you have known given to able-bodied men in that country?—Sixpence a day.

Is it not conversant with your knowledge that that is very much the practice throughout Hampshire?—I cannot answer to Hampshire, not residing there.

The farmers employ some men probably to work by piece in hedging and ditching?—They do.

Do they pay by the rod?—Yes; what we call in that country the lug.

How much a lug do the farmers pay for that operation?—For hedging and ditching, having had some done on my own account last year, I paid the same as the farmers did; I paid 2½d. a lug.

How much at that rate could a man earn in the course of a day?—I am not competent to answer that question.

When first you had the farm you now have, did you pay any larger sum for that operation?—No; I think I paid the same. I have no farm; I have merely wood lands in my own occupation.

Is it the case, generally, that the rate is the same?—No; I think that within these ten years there has been a reduction.

Can you state the proportion in which that labour has been reduced?—I should suppose that there has been a difference of 1s. 6d. a week, or thereabouts.

Upon the whole, are the wages of Labourers employed by farmers very much decreased within the last ten years?—Yes, I should think so.

Richard Poles,
Esq.
9 December,
1830.

Richard Follen,
Esq.

9 December,
1830.

Can you state the proportions?—I should say generally not more than 1*s.* 6*d.* a week.

That would be about a seventh or an eighth?—Yes; 2*d.* or 3*d.* a day.

During those ten years, have the necessities of life been diminished in price?—Certainly.

Do you imagine that the reduction in the necessities of life has been equal to the reduction in the price of labour?—I should think nearly so; I refer particularly to what is very much the food of that part of the country—cheese and butter; they eat very little meat.

And clothes?—Yes, particularly clothes of all descriptions.

In your judgment, is the Labourer now worse off in point of wages than he was ten years ago?—Upon the whole, I think he is, rather.

From whence does that arise?—I think labour is so much more scarce, that he does not get constant employment through the winter.

If he got constant employment throughout the winter, he would be as well off as he was ten years ago?—I think he would.

There are a great many more Labourers in the parish now than there is employment for among the farmers?—I think there is not, in my tithing, more than ought to be employed, provided the farmer was in good case: if the times were good for the farmer, I think he would employ all that there are.

If the farmer got a better price for his produce, he would employ more?—Yes.

Has there been any reduction of rent within your parish?—A very considerable reduction, speaking of my own experience; I have reduced from ten to thirty per cent.

Has that enabled the farmers to employ a greater quantity of Labourers upon their farms?—It ought to have done so; but I should say it has not made a great deal of difference. I have reduced my rents at this moment twenty per cent.; probably there is not a single man employed now more than there was four years ago.

Previous to reducing your rent, how much an acre, on an average, did you get for your land?—I should say, towards 30*s.* an acre, tithe-free. I am proprietor of the great tithes.

How long had it been let at that rent?—It commenced being let at that rent in the year 1820.

At how much had it been let at the dearest times?—I cannot state that, for a great part of the tithing was held by different persons, copyhold and leasehold. It had been very much the custom of my relation, whom I succeeded, who was Lady of the Manor, to grant copyholds and leaseholds, which I thought up to make the inclosure more convenient to myself.

Was the land that belonged to your relation, and which was let by her to common farmers, let at a higher rent previous to the year 1820?—No, lower; the rent was actually raised in the year 1820.

Was it on any lease that they held it previously?—They had had no lease, but held from year to year; it was therefore most execrably farmed.

In what proportion was it raised in the year 1820?—I do not know what it was let for before.

Was it raised, in your judgment, more than it has since been lowered?—Certainly not; not more than twenty per cent.

Having reduced your rent to the same standard, or nearly so, as it was previous to the year 1820, the result has not been that the farmers have employed more Labourers on the land?—I think not.

Though you have made a reduction of twenty per cent., do you think that reduction has done more than keep pace with the reduction of the price of agricultural produce?—No, certainly not.

Do you think the farmers, in consequence of that reduction, are able to employ a greater number of Labourers than they were able to do before that reduction was rendered necessary?—Our staple commodity there is cheese. I should say cheese at this moment is selling at 46*s.* a hundred; two years ago it was selling at 66*s.*; there has been an amazing variation in that particular produce: therefore all our Labourers' wages, and reductions of labour, and so on, are generally calculated on the price of cheese, and not on the price of corn.

From whatever cause, the farmer, notwithstanding the rent is reduced, is not able

Richard Patten,
Esq.9 December,
1830.

able to employ more Labourers than he was before you reduced your rent?—He does not; whether he is able to do so I cannot say.

Ten years ago could the wives and families of any of the cottagers upon that estate earn any money by work of their own?—Yes; lace-making was very common in that country.

Has it ceased?—No, it has not; but I believe in hardly any case now do they get money for that work; they get it all out in goods; they go to the shops at Malmesbury, and sell so much lace for so much clothes or food.

Those clothes or that food will be of some value?—Certainly.

Can you at all estimate how much, probably, a woman without a child in her arms can earn in that way?—I cannot.

Is that a material assistance to a Labourer in providing for his family?—Certainly.

Was that amount greater ten years ago than it is now?—A great deal; perhaps I should state, that I have conversed with some of the women in my parish upon that subject, and they have generally told me it is more profitable now for them to assist in the cultivation of this half acre than it is to make lace.

Supposing you had an opportunity of affixing a piece of ground to a cottage, which would be employed as garden ground only, and you had an opportunity at the same time of giving one of those portions of land at some distance to another cottage; which cottage do you think would have the most profitable piece of land?—That to which the land was most contiguous.

And that employed in growing garden produce rather than corn?—I do not know that that would be the case, for in my country they never sell the produce; they always consume it: supposing it was all vegetables, I do not think it would stand them so much in stead as if a part was corn.

With respect to the families of those persons who have land, what becomes of the young men of the families; do they leave the parish, or remain?—I think they generally leave the parish.

Have you any idea where they go to?—No. I think a great many of them are come to town during the improvements of the metropolis.

Has there been any great increase of those persons since you have had recourse to this experiment?—I think not; but I have been very cautious in building new cottages; though I have been tempted by the offer of very great rents, I have never done it. I have repaired those which were dilapidated; but I have in no instance built new cottages.

You stated that the rent had been increased in 1830. From your observation of land in the immediate neighbourhood, do you conceive that was an exception from the general system of the country, owing to very bad management the long time it had been in the hands of a lady?—It rather proceeded from two circumstances. Your Lordships are aware that a tenant not having the benefit of a lease would not give, generally speaking, so much rent. A good deal had depended upon my predecessor's life, and when I gave them a fourteen years' lease, they gave me a larger rent. I do not think it was at all higher than the neighbouring land, considering that it was chiefly grass land.

What proportion does the produce upon this half acre of land bear to land in the occupation of the farmers?—I should say at least one-fourth increase; and this year one of those proportions, in which, by way of change, the crop was oats, it produced the most magnificent oats I ever saw; I think they were nearly six feet high.

Is the manure from one pig sufficient for a quarter of an acre?—I think so; for the stubble from this quarter of an acre is very carefully collected and stacked; then the potatoe stalk is given to the pig, and the manure of the pig is of a peculiarly strong quality; therefore I should say a pig does produce sufficient, or very nearly sufficient, to manure that portion of land. There is another source from whence they will get some manure; our roads are of limestone, and it was with the greatest difficulty I could get the farmers to think of scraping the roads; the poor people, however, have scraped them, and it has proved an excellent manure, mixed with the other material from the ditches and drainings around these plots, once in two years.

The measure of the quantity of land which would be useful to a cottager is that which he can properly manure?—Yes; and with the qualification that it should not be so much as would make him in the least independent of farmers' labour.

Richard Pallen,
Esq.

9 December,
1830.

Do you think the population is greater since the last Census?—I do not; but, perhaps, for the reason I have given; I have studiously avoided increasing the number of cottages.

You find the young men get off?—Yes, they certainly do.

They, perhaps, get off more easily from being better educated?—Some of the young men of my parish have enlisted; some of them go to Tisbury, where there is a large fair held in the autumn, and enlist there; they are sometimes bought off again.

The wages being so low, and the rents of cottages which do not belong to yourself so high, probably many of them are paid out of the Poor's Rates?—Certainly, they are; and I have frequent applications to build a cottage on a little piece of waste, wherever it may appear, a man offering to give me a large rent; and if the waste belonged to a common farmer he would probably accept the offer: it requires some self-denial not to run into that temptation.

Are those rents paid directly out of the Poor's Rates?—In some cases they certainly are; and I think in many cases the parish officers undertake to say, if a man is industrious, and keeps himself off the parish, and does not come for any thing else, they will pay his rent for him.

You do not interfere much in the distribution of the Poor's Rates?—I do not; there is some little difficulty, this parish consisting of four tithings belonging to different individuals.

The Poor's Rates are levied on the whole?—Yes; and mixed in one general fund, and administered at the head quarters, if I may so call it—the town of Malmesbury.

You have said that the farmers do not drain so much as they did formerly, and might with advantage; do you conceive that the agriculture in that part of the country is deteriorating?—I should say, on my own estate, from the three very wet summers we have had, the land is materially deteriorated, and that that can be cured only by extensive draining. The answer I get from my tenants when I propose that is, that they cannot afford it.

Any deterioration which takes place in agriculture has arisen more from the three last seasons than from other circumstances?—Yes, in a grass country; and the price of our staple commodity, cheese, has decreased most wonderfully.

Do you apprehend that if the farmers had been in good case at the present time, they would have obviated the inconveniences which would have arisen from the bad seasons?—In a great measure I think they would. From the depressed state of agricultural produce, they do not make their ditches so well as they did; they would sooner give a man 1½d. a rod to do it imperfectly, than give him 2d. a rod to do it perfectly.

Do you think that the farmers have been more in the habit of running their land hard than they used to be?—I cannot say that.

What soil is the inclosure to which you have referred?—Boggy light black soil; the rest of my land is very stiff clay.

Would the stiff clay be equally applicable to the purpose of spade husbandry as the light land to which you have alluded?—I have some very stiff land applied to that purpose, and I hear no complaints.

Has the produce of the dairy diminished or increased during the three last wet seasons?—Diminished.

How do you account for its bearing a lower price as the quantity has diminished?—I do not know; one great source of our sale for cheese used to be Scotland; that appears to have ceased.

Has the importation of Irish cattle interfered with you?—Very materially indeed.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Mr. Robert Chick is called in; and Examined, as follows:

Mr. Robert Chick.

WHAT are you?—A drysalter and agent.

Where do you reside?—At Mitcham, in Surrey.

Have you had any particular acquaintance with the Poor Laws?—I have paid very great attention to them, and attended vestries.

What is the population of that parish?—According to the Census in 1811 the number of males was 2,188; the number of females 2,265.

Is there a large proportion of that population now out of employment?—The greatest proportion; working classes.

Can you state the proportion at the present moment out of employment?—There are about 110 in the workhouse; pensioners out-doors about seventy; I cannot recollect the exact number; and about nineteen or twenty apply at the Vestry once a fortnight.

On what ground do they apply?—No employment, though willing to work. Have they been out of employment all the summer?—A great proportion of them.

Of what class of persons are they?—They used to be in the manufacturing districts—the printing and bleaching grounds; the greatest proportion of them now are labouring men.

What is the customary rate of wages now in the parish?—12s., 15s., and 18s. for working ground.

How are the persons employed by the parish?—In digging gravel. Are they employed by the job?—They have not been; they have been turned altogether on the road, ten or fifteen, to do as they pleased; and many of them have sworn they would not work at all at the low wages.

At what rate are they paid by the parish?—I have a Table here of the payments.

[The same is delivered in, and read, and is as follows:]

MITCHAM.

Vestry Room, Feb. 17, 1830.

At a Special Vestry held this day, pursuant to notice given in the Church on Sunday last, and which was numerously attended, the following Scale of Wages for Paupers employed by the Parish Officers was unanimously agreed to:—

SCALE.

A Single Man, from 16 to 18 Years of Age	-	3s. 6d. per Week.
Ditto - from 18 to 21 Years of Age	-	4s. 6d. ditto.
Ditto - from 21 and upwards	-	5s. 0d. ditto.
Man and Wife	-	8s. 0d. ditto.
Ditto - with One Child	-	7s. 6d. ditto.
Ditto - with Two Children	-	8s. 0d. ditto.
Ditto - with Three ditto	-	9s. 0d. ditto.
Ditto - with Four ditto	-	9s. 6d. ditto.
Ditto - with Five and upwards	-	10s. 0d. ditto.

The Hours of Week to be from Eight o'Clock in the Morning until Five in the Evening.

Signed by Order,

John Chart, Vestry Clerk.

By whose order is that printed Statement made out?—By that of the Vestry. Has that received any sanction from the magistrates?—I do not know that.

Do the magistrates order relief in cases where they think the wages insufficient?—Yes, they do; but if a poor man makes an application to the magistrate, he pays attention to what the Overseer says, and he is sent back to Mitcham parish, and is sent to Bear-lane; that is considered a place of punishment; a house kept in St. George's Fields for a great many dissolute characters of London and the country; any disorderly characters are sent to this house. There are others farmed not so.

Is it a place of confinement or a workhouse?—A workhouse, farmed at 4s. 6d. and 5s. per head per week, and the description of persons generally very bad.

How do you know how they are kept?—I have a copy of the bill of fare.

Did you take it from the books?—I took it from Thomas Howard, a pauper; I took it in the presence of a magistrate, and I asked the man whether he was willing to be sworn to it; he said he was; he was a music master attending families at Mitcham, and in consequence of his misfortunes came upon the parish; he was a very respectable man once, I considered.

What is the amount of Rate levied in the parish of Mitcham?—It was above 3,229l. 8s. 6d. in 1823; in 1829 it was 4,050l. 7s. 1d.; it had increased about 880l. 18s. 7d. the last year, and that was principally for casual and other relief.

What are the rents of cottages in that neighbourhood?—Rather high for small cottages; the rents have been doubled within forty years. I was born where I live now. They were 5l. a year, and were raised to 2l. in 10l. for taxes, in consequence of the Poor's Rates. In consequence of a Local Act

Mr. Robert Chick.

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there were a great number of those cottages set down poor, and there was a Local Act of Parliament to make the landlord pay for all the cottages he held. All persons not rated at 18*l.* a year are not eligible to be at the Vestry unless they are leaseholders.

The exclusion from the Vestry is of inhabitants not rated?—It is.

In all cases are the Rates paid by the landlord when under 18*l.* a year?—They must be rated at 24*l.*, because the usual plan is three fourths of the rent.

How many shillings in the pound were levied this year?—In general it is 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; 6th January, 2*s.*; 8th April, 1*s.* 6*d.*; in July 8th, 2*s.*; in October 14th, 2*s.*; then we have another in January, about the 7th.

When was the parish valued?—The survey was about thirteen years ago. We can only get at things by hearsay, but that cost about 300*l.* or 400*l.*; and that survey is not paid for yet, I believe.

Was the property included in that survey chiefly land, or buildings and manufactories?—I cannot speak to that; we have never been able to see that; the survey is not to be found; that is our grievance. There are a certain class of men govern the parish, and we can get no information, except by accident. The Vestry is of very little use to us.

Have you ever appealed against the Rates?—No.

Has any appeal ever been entered into on the ground of improper value?—I believe there has, by Mr. Dagleish; but that is nine or ten years ago or more.

What was the result of that appeal?—I did not attend at the parish meetings at that time; I was not eligible to attend at the Vestry till seven years past, but lived with my father. I think I can speak to the affairs of the parish as much as any one for a hundred years past.

Have you never heard what was the result of this appeal?—No; but I can speak to the fact that there are a many houses, &c. not rated at present.

Are you not aware that it is in the power of any person paying to the Rates to appeal against any Rate by which he imagines himself to be aggrieved?—We are perfectly aware of that; but we conceive it quite useless; that we should be so harassed by law, no one would attend to it.

Do you suppose that the Poor are in a worse situation as to their comforts now than they were when the rate of wages was much higher?—They never were so badly off as they are now.

You think that the necessities of life have not fallen in price in proportion to the wages?—By no means; they used to have 10*s.* or 12*s.* a week upon the roads, and it is reduced to nothing almost now.

Supposing you or any other individual in the parish had to employ able-bodied men to perform work for you, is there any great difference in the wages of such a person during the last ten years?—I should pay 2*s.* 6*d.* per day, and 3*s.* for labour.

What did they ask for that ten years ago?—I do not think they asked much more ten years ago than they do now.

Then your observation with respect to the decrease of the value of labour compared to the decrease in the price of provisions applies only to those persons who are employed by the parish upon the roads?—It is decreased in this kind of way; formerly masters used to keep men a number of years, probably till they died; but now, directly they get a little slack in work, they say, "We have no employment for you," and send them to the parish.

Are the wages of those men who are kept decreased?—I do not think they are, a great many of them.

Those men who are kept are paid as high wages as they used to be ten years ago?—Yes.

Are there more Labourers to be employed in your parish than can find employment?—Probably not, if properly managed; but as circumstances are, it is so.

When you say if they were properly managed, what do you refer to?—We have a great deal of waste land, and it is the opinion of the best informed, that if we were to set them upon that, it would be the most profitable mode.

You say that persons employ less hands than they used to do; what is the reason of that?—The fall in the price of produce.

You speak now of agricultural Labourers?—We have not much agricultural;

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we have what we call Physic Gardens; liquorice, and other things, for the chemists, distillers, &c.

The price of that produce has considerably decreased?—It is reduced, some of it, from 70s. to 1*l*. 1s.

That prevents those persons who hold that land employing so many Labourers as they used to do?—There is a great deal of that land does not pay for the cultivation and labour.

Are you at all aware of the rent of that land?—Yes; some 4*l*. and 5*l*. an acre, and some as low as 40s.

Is the rent the same now as it was ten years ago?—Some of it.

Generally speaking?—Not generally speaking.

Has there been no reduction made in it within the last few years?—Very little, that I have heard of.

How comes it, that if the value of the produce has so much decreased, the persons who hold the land have not obtained a reduction of rent during that time?—Great part of it is leasehold.

For what length of time?—I cannot answer that question.

Has any of it been out of lease within the last ten years?—Very lately.

Did that land so out of lease let again for nearly the same rent as it paid before?—A great deal less.

How much less?—Land at 4*l*. an acre has been reduced to 40s. within these two years.

Has the occupier of that land, since his rent was reduced, employed more labour upon it?—I do not know that; I know he has brought it into an excellent state of cultivation, and produced finer crops than were ever produced before.

Do you know whether he has paid more for the labour employed upon it than he did previous to the reduction of his rent?—The firm was let to a gentleman; he had it on lease for a certain time; it did not pay its expenses: the landlord then let it to this man at a great reduction of rent; he came from another farm.

Is there more labour employed upon that piece of land now than there was previous to the reduction of rent?—I should think twice the number of Labourers.

Was it in very bad condition before?—Nothing but weeds and couch grass.

Was the person who had it in an insolvent state?—He was a gentleman who took it for amusement, and tried to make it pay, but it would not.

Is that the only instance you know of land in that parish being let at a reduced rent?—There is other land also let at a reduced rent.

Can you speak of any land not so peculiarly circumstanced?—I can speak to one portion of land close by my house; that was a lease granted about eighty years back, at 25s. an acre; the persons went to the Dean or other person of Oxford, and got a renewed lease at a fair rent, about eighteen to twenty-five years back. The rent was afterwards, as grass land, advanced to 6*l*. an acre; and this land is let at the present time at 5*l*. an acre on a lease, and is not worth 40s.

It has been since reduced to 5*l*.?—Yes.

Is there more labour employed upon it now the rent is 5*l*. a year than when the rent was 6*l*. a year?—Yes, there is; it fell into fresh hands, and has been cultivated.

Was it in bad cultivation before?—It was meadow land—grass land; it has turnips upon it now.

It has been since ploughed up?—Yes.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Martis, 14 Decembris 1830.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

*Thomas Parfington, Esquire, is called in; and Examined, as follows:**Thomas Parfington,
Esq.**14 December,
1830.*

WHERE do you reside?—At Offham, in the parish of Hamsey, near Lewes, in the county of Sussex.

Are you the Chairman of the Quarter Sessions for the east division of the county of Sussex?—I have had that honour many years.

How long have you turned your attention to the administration of the Poor Laws?—To a certain degree, I have ever since I have acted as a magistrate.

How long is that?—About twenty-five years.

Do you recollect what were the wages of labour when corn was at 25*l.* or 30*l.* a load?—I think they were about from 12*s.* to 15*s.* a week in winter, and from 15*s.* to 18*s.* in summer, and perhaps so as to average about 15*s.* through the year. Besides this there was constant employment for women, and for boys at an early age, which lightened the burden upon the heads of the families.

In what year was wheat at the price that has been mentioned?—I think in the years 1811, 1812 and 1813, the last years of the war. Sometimes more; I have known it as high as 40*l.* a load; but for a considerable space it was 12*s.* 6*d.* a bushel, that is, 25*l.* a load.

What are the wages farmers give now to their regular Labourers in your district?—They vary; but I should think the wages given by farmers for some years past would be from 10*s.* to 12*s.* in winter, and from 13*s.* to 15*s.* in summer, and probably averaging 12*s.* through the year. For those going with cattle, and therefore necessarily employed entirely at weekly wages, I should think 12*s.* a week winter and summer, with an additional 40*s.* or 40*s.* for the harvest months, was the common price. Other Labourers may receive from 10*s.* to 12*s.* a week when employed at daily wages; but they are employed, especially when they have families, in task-work, whenever there is an opportunity; and during that time they may, if they please, earn much more, and as much often as from 12*s.* to 15*s.* even in the winter, and proportionably more in the summer, so as to make their whole earnings considerably more than those of the former description. In several parishes the farmers have lately agreed to advance wages, so as to secure to the able-bodied Labourer 18*s.* 6*d.* in winter, and 15*s.* in summer, and in some of those parishes they declare that that is very little, if at all, more than they were able to earn before.

Are there many people out of work in those parishes?—That varies entirely in different parishes. In the parish in which I reside, there are at present none out of work. I have reason to believe that four-fifths of the Labourers in it are in regular work; the remainder, depending upon chance work, may be occasionally out of employment; of this number, there are about six or seven that are employed by the parish in digging and breaking flints, and some in cutting furze; they can earn by their work 2*s.* a day in good weather; and they are principally familymen. If they are prevented from work by the weather, they receive assistance from the parish; but if single men, or men with no families are employed in that work, they must take the chance of good and bad weather. In the next adjoining parish there are, or were a few weeks ago, from twenty to thirty men out of employment; some were men with families, but the greater part single men; and many of them have been earning and spending large wages in the summer (many of them out of the parish,) and then coming in and throwing themselves upon the parish for support in the winter. Of course, few of those can be employed in profitable labour either by the farmers or by the parish; when they can they receive full wages for what they do, but if the parish is obliged to put them to work which will not give a profitable return (which is done in some instances in preparing land for cultivation by the spade, or in bringing stone or other materials which will not fetch a price adequate to the labour of preparing them), they confine themselves to giving them a bare subsistence, and they make up the deficiency, if they have families, by parish allowances; but if they can make any profitable return for their labour, they have the full advantage of it; and I believe that this is more or less the case in all the parishes within that district.

You have stated that the spade had been resorted to in some cases in preparing land for cultivation, and that it has not been found profitable; will you inform the Committee in what way the spade has been used; what sort of cultivation has been attempted by it?—The parish I allude to particularly have taken a piece of land upon which they employ surplus Labourers, when they have no other work for them, in digging at so much a rod.

At what wages were they so employed?—I do not know; I believe it was done at so much a rod, and it was understood, in general, to be such wages as would subsist them. Perhaps they can earn about 6s. a week.

Has any thing like a correct account been kept of the outlay upon the land so cultivated, and a return made?—I cannot answer that; I only know it from the general statement I have heard from the farmers in the parish.

What is the name of the parish to which you allude?—Barcombe.

How much land has the parish taken for that purpose?—A few acres. I know that they have done it, and I know it in this way: when we have been discussing at the sittings of magistrates the complaints of men out of work in that parish particularly, we have of course recommended to the Overseers to find work of some kind or other; and they stated to us at one time that they had done that, and employed a certain number of them in that way, but that they did not consider it a beneficial work, but merely as a work for the purpose of keeping the people.

[A Return is shown to the Witness, and he is requested to fill it up for the parishes with which he is acquainted.—See Appendix.]

Are the parishes in your district in the habit of giving relief to those men who are in work?—Certainly, to those who have large families. Four children are in most cases considered so far a large family, as to authorize the allowance of the cottage rent, and something for fuel; and if there are six (or in some places five) some further allowance in money and flour. It is generally considered that from 2s. to 2s. 3d. a head upon the whole of a family per week, is necessary for the support of a family of seven children; probably where wages have been raised, that will not be done to the same extent.

Do you think that the Labourers that are now out of employment, or that are employed on the roads and gravel pits, could be profitably employed on the farms if the farmers could afford it?—I do not think they could; I do not think that, generally speaking, the farmer could, by an additional outlay of capital in the employment of Labourers, insure any adequate return of profit. The rate of profit, even upon the capital first laid out upon land, is so small, and the position so well understood, that every successive addition is attended with diminished profit, that I cannot suppose that it would answer to do so to any extent, although, perhaps, it might in some particular cases. I wish to state that I give these views with great diffidence.

What is the condition of the Labourers in your part of the country?—In most parts of our district those who are in regular work are very tolerably off.

Are they worse off than when wheat was 25*l.* or 30*l.* a load?—By no means. The wages are, since that time, not reduced more than from fifteen to twenty per cent., but corn is reduced from thirty-five to fifty, and most other articles of provision and clothing from twenty-five to thirty or forty. The principal advantages which they then possessed, and have not now, were the facility of getting employment for women and children, and the greater ease of getting assistance from the parish. The former I consider to have been a substantial benefit; but the latter, it is to be feared, has helped to lead to the distress now existing. These observations, however, must be confined to those in regular work; those who depend upon chance work are, in general, worse off than they were; they are likewise more numerous. While the demand for labour was large, they could readily obtain employment at ample wages; and the calls for the Army and Militia kept down their numbers. Now, as there is no increasing demand for agricultural labour to meet the increase which has taken place in the population, and no other resource to draw it off, there must, therefore, remain a surplus of unemployed hands, who can earn scanty, if any, wages, or be left to throw themselves upon their parishes for support, for, of course, a bare subsistence. I would likewise confine my observations to the principal part of the district in which I act as a magistrate, which is composed of parishes on or immediately under the South Downs, where the land is of good quality and the

Thomas Partington,
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farms extensive. In approaching towards the Weald, where the land is poor and the farms small, and the tenants have little or no substance, I believe the case is very different; the wages much lower, the Labourers of all descriptions much worse off, and the means of employment still more scanty; but I should doubt whether, even here, those who are in regular employment are not fully as well off as they were in the times alluded to. In many of those, the occupier and his family do nearly all the work necessary to raise whatever produce can be raised and turned to a profitable account. Of course there are scarcely any means of employing Labourers except at particular times of the year, or, when employed, of giving them adequate wages.

Are the men put upon the highways more for the purpose of giving them employment than for the repair of the roads?—Although men are often put upon the highways with the immediate object of giving them employment, yet the roads are nowhere in such a state as to make that employment superfluous. It is frequently difficult to convince farmers of the benefit and the saving to be attained by good roads.

Is it the practice to employ men by day or task work on the roads?—I believe the practice of employing men in task work is very general, in work to which it is applicable, on the roads as well as otherwise. Of course there are some sorts which can only be done by the day.

As the law now is, would not a man gain a settlement by hiring and paying 10*l.* per annum, though if he hired a farm of 1,000*l.* per annum, and only paid 999*l.* he would not gain a settlement?—That is literally true. The case is this: a man, to gain a settlement, must not only have taken premises for a year, at a rent exceeding 10*l.* and occupied them for a year, but he must likewise have paid a year's rent, according to the contract; if, before he has done so, he becomes a pauper, he gains no settlement. That might easily be remedied by a legislative enactment; that if he had contracted for 10*l.* a year, and occupied for a year, and paid upwards of 10*l.* rent, he should gain a settlement; and I am not clear whether that might not have been the meaning of the Legislature.

Do you believe that Friendly Societies are of much service in your part of the country?—I am satisfied, if they were constructed upon proper principles, and could be kept in order, and not draw persons into dissipation at public-houses, they would be a great benefit; but they are certainly defective in all those respects, particularly upon their calculations, of which the fallacy only appears when they come to have existed for any considerable period. Many have been absolutely insolvent; and others, although apparently flourishing, have been found, upon examination, to be fast approaching to the same state. I can give the history of a Friendly Society in my own neighbourhood, in which they have determined to dissolve themselves, though they have, apparently, a fund of 4,000*l.* Upon examination, there was very little doubt but that the state of the funds was such, that though they could go on very well for a certain time, yet, in the course of fifteen or twenty years, when a number of old men came upon them, they would be found insufficient, and therefore it was thought better to give back the money.

In point of fact, is there not generally a clause in those Friendly Societies to prevent men from dissolving, or from changing the place of meeting?—Not from changing the place of meeting; the place of meeting may generally be changed by the consent of the Society; and the clause prohibiting dissolving is so long as the purposes of the Society can be attained.

Does not the present administration of the Poor Laws tend to the encouragement of early and improvident marriages?—I have no doubt that it does; if a man can marry, and be sure that all his family will be provided for by the parish, it naturally has that effect; though from what we know in another country, it is not the only cause which may produce that effect. With regard to marriages, there is one circumstance that increases very much the number of early improvident marriages, and that is the practice of driving a man who is sworn to be the father of an expected bastard child, by the dread of imprisonment, to marry the woman. This is constantly almost resorted to, where the man belongs to a different parish from the woman, for the sake of getting rid of her altogether.

Are there any other means by which the Poor Laws operate to produce the effect of inducing improvident marriages?—I said I thought they had done so generally, by the circumstance of a man finding that he could ensure a provision
for

for his family out of the Poor Rates; and I know that there are instances in which they have done so. I have known instances where that has been the case, where men have absolutely married, as they call it, to spite the parish, in order to get better wages and larger allowances.

In the parish in which you reside, how many Labourers are kept in constant employment per hundred acres in the winter months?—I have had no time to make inquiries, and therefore my answer must be very uncertain; but I did inquire on Sunday, and I was told, that in the parish where I reside there were a hundred Labourers constantly employed on about 2,900 acres of land; and of that 2,900 there are 600 down land, which require little cultivation, so that we may call it almost one to eighteen acres.

What is the population of your parish?—The population on the last Return was 537. I made an inquiry of some of the officers on Sunday, and they said that the present population was only 554; but they probably could not have accurate means of taking it.

How many men are out of employment in that parish in the winter?—Few, if any.

How many in summer?—Scarcely any, except, accidentally, a pauper, who is brought home from another parish, may be some time in getting into work.

What does an able-bodied man earn in the harvest months generally?—I think he will earn from 4*l.* to 5*l.*

What would his wife get by leasing or gleanings?—That is very uncertain; it depends upon the state of the weather and other things; sometimes they pick up very little; in a large family, I think, they pick up enough to serve them for perhaps three weeks.

What do the Labourers live upon principally?—They live principally upon wheaten flour, in the shape of bread or puddings, bacon or pickled pork constantly, and occasionally some other meat. There are few of them who do not consume more or less butter and cheese; milk when they can get it, but rarely; tea very universally, and in considerable quantities. They do not drink beer in their own houses. Their wives and families partake nearly the same food as themselves. These remarks I wish only to apply to my parish and the districts near it, but I believe that the habits of most in our district are nearly similar. I do not mean to apply it to other parts of the county, particularly to the Weald.

What is the price of such tea as they drink?—About 5*s.* a pound; but they get it dearer by buying it in small quantities in the chandler's shop.

What is the price of the quarter loaf in your district?—The Labourers mostly bake their own bread; and reckoning flour at 1*s.* 6*d.* the gallon, which is the present price, or perhaps rather above it, it comes to about 2½*d.* a pound; 10*d.* the four-pound loaf; about 10½*d.* the quarter.

Yours is not a smuggling district, is it?—Not very much; I do not think we have any in our parish at present; but in some of the neighbouring parishes there is a good deal.

Have the rents been reduced in your district since wheat was 25*l.* or 30*l.* a load?—Certainly they have, very considerably; all rents that were raised in the war have been considerably reduced; I do not know that they are reduced to quite what they were before.

As compared with the year 1792, should you think that the rents are reduced?—They are certainly not reduced as compared with what they were at that time; but as far as the circumstance relates to myself, if I may mention it, I can give an illustration of it. A farm which was let in the year 1795, and, unfortunately for me, for a twenty-one years' lease, which came out in 1816, the present rent of it is not fifteen per cent. more than it was in 1795, but it was raised something in 1816 from 1795; and since that, it has had a small reduction.

Do you consider the land much more profitable to the cultivator than it was at that time, by improved cultivation?—I do not know how it can be more profitable to the cultivator in a part of the country where the cultivation was thoroughly improved; and I am afraid in many places where the cultivation was high at that time, it has gone down. It is less fully cultivated than it had been, by reason of capital not producing so good a profit; I know it is in some cases.

Thomas Parfington,
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Thomas Partington,
Esq.

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Do the farmers keep less stock?—I do not know that they do materially, not in the district I speak of.

What is the rent of cottages in your district?—From 3*l.* to 4*l.* 10*s.*; and those generally have small pieces of garden, in which they can raise some vegetables for their families.

How large are the gardens usually?—Perhaps half a rood. There are some that are rather less rent. The cottages I speak of, and, generally, the cottages about us, are substantial buildings, and I suppose they would cost 80*l.* or 100*l.* to build.

Has there been any reduction in the rent of those cottages since wheat was 25*l.* or 30*l.* a load?—No, there has not; nor was there any rise upon them at that time. I believe the rents of cottages are very much what they were thirty years ago.

Are the cottages generally let with the farms?—A certain portion of them are; each tenant has the cottages annexed to his farm for his own Labourers; but there are a great many cottages which do not belong to farms.

Those tenants who have received deductions from their landlords, have they reduced to the Labourers the rents of the cottages?—I do not suppose they have.

Is fuel dear in your part of the country?—We principally burn coal at about from 38*s.* to 40*s.* a chaldron, and by retail it must be something more; but, as far as we can, we recommend them to get half a chaldron at a time, and some farmer will generally give them the carriage of it.

Does that 38*s.* or 40*s.* include the carriage?—No, it does not; we have not above two miles carriage to our part of the country; it comes by the sea to Newhaven; it is brought up in barges to Lewes, and that is the price at Lewes. In other places it comes up by canals, at a little more charge.

Has that part of the country been disturbed?—There has been no violence immediately around us; there have, in some parishes, been meetings to demand an increase of wages, which has been, to a certain extent, acquiesced in.

Is it near the coast that you reside?—About ten miles from the coast.

What portion of the population is engaged in fishery?—None; there are no fisheries except from Brighton, and a little from Eastbourne, and a good deal from Hastings.

You have said that the rents of farms are reduced considerably, but you do not think they are reduced so low as they were in the year 1792; do you think, if you allowed a fair interest for the money that has been expended upon them in buildings and improvements since that time, that they are not quite as low as in 1792?—I can only speak from general information.

You have stated that Labourers upon the lands in the Weald of Sussex are in a worse condition than in your neighbourhood; are any of those lands thrown out of cultivation?—I do not know that there are any lands absolutely thrown out of cultivation; there is a great deal of land, I believe, in places that is but partially cultivated; and I believe in some places land is laid down for rough stock, on which some corn was grown formerly.

How do you account for it, that land which was formerly cultivated to produce corn is now laid down for rough stock?—From the prices being such that there cannot be a return for the capital laid out in inferior lands; but I do not think it goes to a great extent.

Has not that been the occasion of many persons being turned out of employ?—It must be so of course where there is not employment.

Even in the lands that are continued to be cultivated, and cultivated with some spirit, are as many persons employed upon them as there were formerly?—I should think scarcely so many; but certainly not more, so as to find employment for the additional population.

You said that in your parish there are 600 acres of poor land, which require less cultivation than the better land. If poor land is cultivated, does not it require the employment of more Labourers than land of a better quality?—That land is valuable land as sheep down, but it would not be worth cultivation at all now; and even formerly it was very much doubted whether as a permanent measure too much down land had not been broken up for cultivation in corn.

Does

Does not the cultivation of poor land, for the purpose of producing corn, require the employment of more Labourers than the same quantity of good land?

—I should think not.

You have said that the difference in the condition of the Poor now arises partly from the circumstance of the women and boys not having employment as they had formerly; what has occasioned that difference?—There not being the demand for labour; all the labour that is wanted the men can do; formerly they were glad to employ the women and boys.

You have spoken of spade husbandry; is that carried on to any great extent?

—No; it is only a little piece by way of experiment, and merely to give the men something to do.

You have spoken of the deficiency of the farmers' capital, and you have admitted that if they had capital they could not employ all the Labourers now profitably; can you suggest any course that can be taken for the purpose of giving them the means of employing an additional number?—Certainly not; the reason they cannot employ an additional number I conceive to be that that additional number will not bring back a remunerating profit according to the present prices of corn.

Then the only way in which they could be enabled to employ a greater number of persons would be by raising the prices of produce?—The only way in which they could be enabled to employ a greater number of persons would be by their obtaining a better price for their commodity.

Were you correctly understood to state it as a received doctrine, that every addition of capital laid out in the improvement of land would diminish the rate of profit derived from that land?—Certainly, after a certain extent; for instance, if the first 1000*l.* that is laid out will return twelve per cent., and if 500*l.* more is laid out upon the land, it would not return above nine or ten. I conceive that the additional capital laid out in land operates just in the same way as taking successively worse land into cultivation; the profit of the capital employed in each case diminishing according to the extent of it.

Do you mean to say that there is not a given point up to which additional capital can be as profitably laid out upon land as the original 1,000*l.* you have mentioned?—It depends upon what state of cultivation the farm is brought into. There is a certain quantity of capital that is necessary to get the best profit out of the land; but when that is obtained, every successive addition, though it may bring some profit, will bring less profit, in a gradually descending scale.

Is the land in your immediate neighbourhood brought to that state, that no additional capital can be laid out upon it profitably?—I think it is, at the present prices.

Are the Rates in your immediate neighbourhood levied purely upon agricultural property?—They are, principally, almost entirely, except in towns,—in the town of Lewes. In the country parishes there are a few tradesmen whose shops and warehouses and houses are rated; but the bulk of the Rates are levied upon the land.

Are the Committee to understand that the proportion of Rates levied upon other than agricultural property is so trifling as not to form a material consideration with respect to those country parishes?—In parishes purely agricultural it is.

Is not the whole population, then, in such parishes, at present supported out of the agricultural produce?—Nearly so; but the whole population is employed either immediately in agricultural labour, or in that labour which is subsidiary to agriculture; for instance, the carpenters and the blacksmiths are employed by the farmer in making and repairing his different articles; so that they may be said to be subsidiary to the agriculturist.

And therefore the whole population is supported out of the agricultural profits?—I think it is; there is no other property to bear it.

You have stated that those agricultural Labourers who have full employment receive full wages; what proportion of those full wages do the persons employed by the parish, or rather who are out of employment, receive?—That must depend upon the circumstances of each individual parish; if the work can make any profitable return, those who are employed by the parishes receive full wages; if it cannot, they pay them such small wages as they consider necessary for subsistence.

Thomas Farington,
Esq.

14 December,
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Timothy Partridge,
Esq.

14 December,
1830.

In your opinion are the persons employed by the parishes profitably employed?—In some instances they are.

Will you have the goodness to state what employment they are engaged in?—Often upon the roads, or different circumstances connected with them; for instance, in what I mentioned before, where there is an opportunity in digging and preparing flints for the roads in general, which they sell to the Turnpike Trusts. That is a profitable employment, for which they are paid by task work at such a rate that they can earn fair wages, little less than when engaged in farming.

Are there many persons out of employment who cannot be so employed in profitable employment?—In many parishes there are, as I before stated; but a very great part, at least, of those are men who, having earned good wages in summer, come and throw themselves on the parish in winter. I can even go further; we have many cases before us in that district of men coming and demanding employment from the parish, who have thrown themselves out of good work by their misbehaviour or idleness.

What do you do with those men?—We direct the parishes to find them some work, and such as to find them a bare subsistence; of course, if they have families, what they cannot earn by that sort of work must be made up by the parish.

Then those individuals do not suffer for their misconduct?—They do to a considerable degree, for they have that bare subsistence; for instance, a single man who has thrown himself out of work, having had very good work, earning 10s. a week, they order him to be found such work as he can earn 6s., which will barely support him; if he has a family, still they allow that family short of what they might receive from his earnings if he behaved himself properly.

Would it not be better for the farmer to employ more Labourers at full wages, and to receive the profit arising from such employment, than to pay a proportion of them for comparatively unprofitable labour?—If the work was comparatively unprofitable, it would; it must depend upon whether the work is comparatively unprofitable or not. The work on which they are employed by the parish is not such as produces no return, although it does not produce sufficient return; therefore the whole must be a question of comparison, because work may be done on a farm which may produce a very deficient return, as well as the other work.

Does not parish employment in general produce no return whatever?—I think in many cases it does produce a considerable return.

In what cases?—I have mentioned some; for instance, preparing materials for roads. I think there is no work, or very seldom that is the case, which does not make some return, though a small one.

Then in your neighbourhood a system which has been represented to exist in other parts of the country does not exist, namely, that the poor people employed by the parish only do nominal work, and not real work?—I do not think it does to any extent; it may to a small one. I remember one instance where no work could be found, and there were certain persons who had thrown themselves out of work, and the parish set them to turn a grindstone to sharpen tools; but that was a case of two or three persons who could not work to any profit.

You have stated that improvident marriages greatly arise from the operation of the laws relating to bastardy; will you suggest any improvement that occurs to you upon that subject?—It is difficult to suggest an improvement, certainly, but perhaps the object might be attained by the party charged in the first instance putting down what would pay for the lying-in and the first expenses, and after the order being made, continuing it as it is now. The mischief is done by subjecting him to imprisonment before the birth, unless he can get security, which scarcely in any instance can be done by the Labourer. The law, as it stands, after birth, compelling him to pay a certain weekly sum, and subjecting him to imprisonment if he does not pay that, is not objectionable; but the mischief arises out of the imprisonment before birth. The parish make use of that not only for the purpose of securing him, but, in fact, to get rid of their pauper, by compelling a man belonging to another parish to marry her, even though a prostitute with whom he has had an occasional connexion.

Has

Has not that practice, of your own knowledge, rendered many a good and industrious Labourer an idle and unworthy member of society?—I can have no doubt of it.

Is not the difficulty of finding bail very much increased by its being supposed that the bail are to be bound not only for the appearance of the man at the Quarter Sessions, but also for the order that may be made upon him by the Quarter Sessions?—It is understood that the bail are bound for him to appear at the Quarter Sessions, and to pay what is there ordered to be paid, but not to the future payments, but only up to the time of the Quarter Sessions. There is a doubt upon that subject; but I believe that is the general understanding of the law. It was clearly otherwise under the former law; but the understanding under the last Act of Parliament is, that it only extends to what is immediately directed by the Quarter Sessions.

Are there not very considerable expenses attending the case being brought to the Quarter Sessions to obtain the order?—The cases are very seldom brought to the Quarter Sessions: the order is made by two magistrates before the Sessions, and then, when the party is brought up to the Sessions, if he has paid all the money up to that time, the recognizance is discharged; if he has not, then the recognizance is a security to the extent of what is due to that time upon the order.

Are not the expenses at such Quarter Sessions very considerable?—The expenses are not considerable if the order is made by the magistrates, and the recognizance only returned. If the order is made at the Quarter Sessions, it is attended with very considerable expense; in fact, that is seldom done except where the magistrates before whom the party is brought see that it is a doubtful case; they will then sometimes, if they think there is a fair defence, refuse to make an order, but direct the parish to apply to the Sessions, in order that it may be brought on then between the parties, instead of putting the man to an additional expense of an appeal.

In your opinion, would it be beneficial to permit a party to compound with the parish officers for a certain sum?—That is a question upon which very great doubts exist, and I know that the most respectable authorities in the law think that it is a mischievous practice. I own I cannot myself concur in that opinion; I cannot but think that the practice of composition might often be advantageous to all parties. There are many instances in which it is the only effectual means of getting at those who have the means of paying; take the instance of a gentleman's servant; if there is an order to be made for him to pay a few shillings a week, he goes, after a short time, to some other service in a distant part of the country, and you never get at him; whereas if he paid 50*l.* or 50*l.*, the parish would be effectually relieved.

Is not, in practice, the order of Sessions for weekly maintenance generally evaded by the party absconding or being unable to pay?—It is very much so; and I should observe that at present, however long the party has been away, and whatever arrear he has run into, it is all satisfied by three months' imprisonment. If the arrear is but 10*s.*, if he cannot pay it, he is subject to three months' imprisonment; but if the arrear is 50*l.*, and the parish cannot catch him till he has incurred that arrear, still he satisfies the whole up to that time by the like three months' imprisonment.

Is the order of maintenance that is made upon the woman generally complied with?—If the woman gets into a good place, and cannot take care of the child, it is generally or partially. The orders, generally, are so much upon the man, and so much upon the woman, provided she does not nurse the child herself: if the woman takes care of the child, that is considered as a satisfaction of her portion of the maintenance.

Is it not very frequently evaded by her entirely?—I think not; I think, where the woman gets into a good situation, it is not; and the parish consider, if she gets into any favourable situation, whether it is not better to take very little from her, if they can get payment from the father, rather than force her to come back to the parish to take care of the child, in which case they must very nearly provide for her as well as the child.

Is not a bastard child generally made a pretence for the woman either receiving a weekly allowance out of the workhouse, or being brought into it?—

Thomas Partington,
Esq.

14 December,
1850.

Thomas Partington,
Esq.

14 December,
1830.

The mother of a bastard child frequently receives from the parish the allowance which is or ought to be paid by the father, and she then takes the expense of keeping it upon herself.

Does not she frequently receive considerable additional relief from the parish?—I think not.

Was there ever any manufacturing employment for the women or children in your division?—There was a little spinning, but to a very trifling amount.

Was it formerly considered a sufficient resource for a woman?—I think not; sometimes they were employed in knitting stockings for their own families, and sometimes spinning to a slight degree.

Do you find that the cottagers who are in full employment have deteriorated at all in their mode of living of late years?—Certainly very much the contrary. I can remember them forty years ago, and the cottagers certainly did not live nearly so well as they do now.

When wheat was 30*l.* a load, that is, 15*s.* a bushel, how much wheat did the weekly earnings of the Labourer then supply him with?—Fifteen shillings would buy a bushel of wheat.

At the present time what quantity of wheat does his average earnings supply him with?—Considering the average earnings at 12*s.*, that would be from a bushel and a third to a bushel and a half.

And therefore the Labourers are better off with their present wages than they were in those high times?—Those that are in full work are.

Are there more people out of employment now than were at that time?—Yes; there were scarcely any out of work at that time; and, as I said before, the women and children got a good deal more than they do now.

Were the farmers the persons who employed that additional work at that time?—The farmers must have been the persons almost entirely; the artificers, of course, carpenters and blacksmiths, might have more work, and therefore they might have employed rather more.

Has there been any decrease of rents in your parish lately?—Not lately; there have been occasional reductions.

Have the farmers, in consequence of the reduction of rents, employed more Labourers than they did before?—They have been merely temporary reductions.

Are the fixed rents now as high as they were ten years ago?—I think ten years ago was the time when there were most considerable abatements.

Fifteen years ago?—The rents are certainly by no means so high as they were fifteen years ago, except in particular instances: where rents have been set any time between the years 1806 and 1814, they are considerably, I think I may say universally, reduced now.

Can you state any thing like the proportion?—No, I cannot; I only know it generally.

Was the consequence of that reduction of rent an increased employment of Labourers by the farmers?—I do not think it was.

You have stated that there were cases of persons having voluntarily thrown themselves out of work and coming to the parish for relief; in such cases do those persons receive relief from the parish?—The parish is directed to find some labour for them, which will barely subsist them, and no more.

Upon what principle do magistrates order the parish to relieve such persons?—Because we conceive that no man must be left to starve; but we go no farther.

If the fault by which he is thrown out of employment is his own, how do you conceive that the law obliges you to make any order upon the subject?—I do not know that it obliges us; we recommend it.

Did you ever know an instance of an Overseer refusing to relieve a person or to give a person work under those circumstances?—I have not of their refusing to relieve to this extent.

Do you remember any instance that you gave a regular order for their employment or for relief to the extent of subsistence?—Scarcely ever.

Do you remember any one instance?—I do not. We have sometimes said to an Overseer, "If you do not do this, we must make an order."

Supposing

Thomas Farnington,
Esq.

14 December,
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Supposing the Overseer has refused to obey this order, in what manner would you have proceeded to enforce it?—If he refused to find him work, we then should feel justified in making an order for him to pay a certain sum sufficient to keep him from starving. If that order was disobeyed, we should conceive ourselves authorized to inflict the penalty which the statute of Elizabeth gives for refusing to obey an order of Justices; I think 40s. Upon reflection, I think there is not such a penalty, but the proceeding must be by indictment.

Do you not conceive that giving relief to a person who voluntarily throws himself out of work is entirely contrary to the whole spirit of the Poor Laws?—I do not think it is. If a man is in that situation that he must either starve or steal, I should not think that it was against the spirit of the law if it went no further than actually to secure him the means of life.

Then, according to your view of the subject, there is nothing to prevent any man in the country throwing himself upon the Poor Laws?—It may be very difficult to prevent it; but, of course, a magistrate would put him in such a situation that if he does it, it is at great distress to himself.

Supposing a man in good employment voluntarily to throw himself out of employ, does not that man neglect his wife and family, and by that means become a vagrant?—Most undoubtedly. If he has a wife and family, we should then proceed against him for not using his endeavours to maintain them, for which he is liable to imprisonment.

Then the relief given to Labourers throwing themselves out of employment is confined to single persons?—It would be to single persons that it would be most likely to be applicable.

Do you think that the relieving single persons who so conduct themselves is at all consonant with the spirit of the Poor Laws?—I stated before, that where the option is between starving and stealing, to give such relief as is absolutely necessary to prevent that would not be varying from the spirit of the Poor Laws.

Would not the difficulty arise upon this, whether the man did voluntarily throw himself out of employment or not; and if he did, you would consider him a disorderly person?—Yes.

Do you consider a person so throwing himself out of work liable to punishment as neglecting to support his family?—Certainly, if he has a family.

Has not a man a right to throw himself out of work unless he has made a contract with his master?—If he has a right to throw himself out of work, it is upon the principle, that if he does not work, he has no right to demand any thing for eat.

In case of the family applying for relief, may he not be punished for deserting them?—Certainly, for not providing for them. There are two different divisions of the offence; one is for deserting them, which subjects the party to punishment as a vagabond; the other is for not exerting himself to support them, or squandering what he does receive, and not applying it to his family, which subjects him to an inferior degree of punishment as an idle and disorderly person. In general, in those sorts of cases that are alluded to, when a man has thrown himself out of work, we say to the Overseers, "Do something to keep him from starving, but no more; make him work as hard for that as if he was earning good wages."

You have said that the reduction of rent did not produce increased employment; was that occasioned by a reduction in prices at the same time?—The reduction of rent followed on the reduction of prices.

When the rent was reduced, did not the prices of agricultural produce fall still lower?—I think they did.

Was not that the reason why the farmers, though they were relieved with respect to the rent, were not able to employ more Labourers?—I believe it was.

You have spoken of the Poor Rate in the town of Lewes being levied upon shops and warehouses; do you know whether the tradesmen in the town of Lewes, besides being rated upon their shops and warehouses, are also rated upon their stock in trade?—Certainly not; the practice has never been to rate stock in trade.

You say that formerly there was a little spinning and knitting; what has occasioned there being no spinning and knitting now?—Because those articles are made so much cheaper by machinery; but it never was to any extent, and thirty years ago it scarcely answered.

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You have been understood to state that the average wages in your neighbourhood at present would enable a Labourer to purchase a greater quantity of corn than the average wages fifteen years ago would do, but that the family, the women and children, could not earn as much now as they did at that time. Do you consider that the greater proportional amount of wages earned by the men, now makes up for what is lost by the women and children not earning so much?—I think it more than makes it up; and I think so because, at that time, men even with two children, certainly with three, would come for and receive assistance from the parish; but at present the parish never listen to a case of that sort, unless there are at least four children, except there is some illness; for instance, if the wife is unhealthy.

You have said, that in your parish there was no great proportion of Labourers beyond that which could be employed in agriculture; is that the case in other parishes in your neighbourhood?—In some it is; it varies very much; in the adjoining parish there are between twenty and thirty men out of employment.

Generally speaking, in your district are the quantity of Labourers more than can be employed profitably at agriculture?—I should think that, taking the whole district, they are. There is one circumstance to be considered; about twenty years ago there was a great stimulus to the population, as appears by the Returns of 1811 and 1821. That population is now just coming into active existence, and are calling for work; and, on the other hand, even if there was a demand for the same produce, that would not require more Labourers, and therefore the means of labour that existed then would be sufficient to produce the same produce now; and we know that there is not a greater demand for agricultural produce than there was at the time of the war, but less.

Can you look forward to any circumstances under which the surplus population can be profitably employed in agriculture?—I cannot.

You are aware that in the Weald of Sussex there is a considerable surplus population?—Very much indeed.

Under those circumstances of over-population, do you conceive it possible that the Poor Rates in this particular district can be diminished?—I am not aware of any mode by which they can be diminished.

Have you ever turned your mind to the possibility of inducing some of that over-population to emigrate?—I have often thought of it, and I should conceive, if it could be properly arranged, that it would be the most effectual method of providing for that superabundant population.

Supposing that, by some means, that over-population could be got rid of; do you conceive that there are any regulations by which the vacuum that would be thereby occasioned, might be prevented from being filled up?—It would be a matter of great difficulty, and, I am sure, I cannot presume to suggest any such regulations; but, at the same time, I should think that there might be regulations adopted in different parishes which might discourage too early marriages, and might by degrees bring the population more nearly to a level with the means of employment; and, perhaps, in some degree, that system is arising now; but a great deal upon that subject will be known from the result of the next Population Returns.

But, at all events, no regulations can have the effect of diminishing the Poor Rates so long as that over-population exists?—I should think not.

Have you been much affected by the three last wet seasons?—The present year has been a very favourable one to us upon the Downs; we have had a very fair crop, and yielding tolerably well; but at a very little distance from us, when you get towards the Weald, even in the parish that I alluded to just now, the case is entirely different. I suppose that a great deal of land there has not yielded more than two quarters of wheat an acre; and the two years before were exceeding bad years everywhere, both on the Downs and in the Weald. The harvest of the year before last was one of the most expensive ever known; very little of the wheat could be reaped under 17s. or 18s. or 20s. an acre, and the crop, when it was got in, was very deficient. This year it has been otherwise as to the Down district, but very bad as to the other part; it is nearly one-third deficient.

In your experience, has the quantity of cases tried upon appeal at the Sessions upon the Poor Rates increased or diminished?—I think those that have been tried have been very few; there have been many entered, but always made up.

Have

Have there been more tried of late years than there were when you originally began to act as Chairman of the Quarter Sessions?—I think not.

Do you attribute that to the circumstance of the magistrates understanding the law better than they formerly did, or to any alteration in the state of the law?—No; because the appeals upon Poor Rates must relate principally to matters of fact; it is a question of value in general.

In point of fact, are you of opinion that there are as many appeals or as many disputes upon the decisions of magistrates at the Sessions as there used to be formerly?—Certainly; the number of cases brought to the Sessions upon settlements are considerably increased, not within the last eight or ten years, but they are very much increased since I first acted as a magistrate. There is one Act of Parliament which has relieved us considerably, and that is an Act with regard to a taking of ten pounds a year. That has lessened the number considerably. It used to be a question of value, whether it was actually worth, in which they generally brought surveyors on both sides.

Do not the permanent Overseers contribute to diminish the appeals?—I should think they did.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

The Reverend *Henry Foulis* is called in; and Examined, as follows:

YOU are a Magistrate in Lincolnshire?—I am.

Where do you reside?—About ten miles from Lincoln, at Wragby.

Have you turned your attention to the administration of the Poor Laws in your neighbourhood?—A good deal.

Is it to the parish of Wragby particularly that you have turned your attention, or to the division for which you act as a magistrate?—To the division for which I act as a magistrate.

Does the practice prevail in your district of paying the wages of labour out of the Poor Rate?—In some large parishes, where there are no gentlemen resident; but I do not think it is much the custom in the small parishes.

Can you state any parish where that practice has particularly prevailed?—At Tattersall and Bardney and Coningsby.

Can you state what quantity of acres are in those parishes, and the amount of the population?—I cannot state in Tattersall and Coningsby; but in the parish of Bardney there are about 5,000 acres, and the population is about 1,000.

What are the rates in the pound?—In Bardney about 6s. on two-thirds of the rackrental; last year, in Tattersall and Coningsby, about 8s.

Can you state what is the common rate of wages in the parish of Bardney for Labourers in full employment?—About 2s. 6d. a day at present for good able-bodied men, and more in the summer.

Is it the practice to afford any relief to the Labourers in full employment, in proportion to their families?—I think not, generally speaking.

Are there many Labourers out of employment in the winter months?—Yes; there is a superabundant population, which are employed upon the roads, or in any way to keep them from being idle, but not with a profitable return.

Can you state to what extent that surplus population existed last year?—About twenty-five.

How much were they paid?—About 20d. a head per day; but they were paid rather according to their families; some that had large families got more, from 20d. to 2s. a day.

In what way were they employed?—They were employed mostly on the roads and in the gravel pits; they were handied about from one to another, going first to one farmer, and he said, "I do not want them," and then to another.

Is your parish principally grass or arable land?—There is a portion of wood and in it, but it is principally arable.

Have any attempts been made to introduce any thing like spade cultivation in that parish?—I believe nothing of the sort.

Is there any gentleman residing there?—None.

How long have you found this surplus population to exist?—About two or three years.

Are you aware of any cause that has produced it?—The farmers have not capital to employ Labourers; although I have no doubt there are not so many Labourers there as could be profitably employed, because, when you consider

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a population of 1,000 as compared with 5,000 acres, it is only one person to five acres, which is certainly not too great a proportion.

Has the population increased much of late years in your parish?—I believe it has.

Has that produced any effect in throwing so many persons out of employment?—I should think it has; but I attribute it to there being a great many poor farmers, so that the land is under-cultivated.

Do you think that more Labourers might be profitably employed for the purpose of cultivating the land?—I have no doubt of it.

You have stated an instance of a parish badly managed; can you state an instance of a parish in your division which you consider to be differently managed, and what the results have been in that parish?—In my own parish I am rather particularly circumstanced, for the whole of it belongs to a cousin of mine, and the Poor's Rates do not amount to 3s. upon two-thirds of the rack rent; and we give the Poor gardens and little accommodations.

What is the amount of the acreage?—There are about 1,300 acres, and the population about 700.

What proportion of the population, according to the late Census, are employed in agriculture?—I can hardly state that.

Does the practice there prevail of paying any part of the wages out of the Poor Rate?—No; I have decidedly stopped it.

Are there any persons out of employment during the winter months?—No; without it is decrepid old men; there are no able-bodied men.

You have stated that the property belonged to a relation of yours; does he employ any supernumerary Labourers, or does he merely employ his fair share, as any other cultivator?—He adopted the system of tile-draining very much upon his estate, in which a vast number of people are employed both in summer and winter; in the neighbouring parishes round there are a great many people employed in the winter months in preparing clay.

What are the wages earned by those persons?—About 15s. a week.

You have stated that you have given the Poor small gardens; can you state any particular results of that spade cultivation?—I think it is a great advantage to them; it enables them to keep their pigs, and it keeps them at home in the evening, instead of going to public-houses. I think that in every point of view it is a considerable benefit.

Have you any particular plot of land which is appropriated for the purpose of granting gardens to the poor, or are the gardens by chance attached to the cottages?—Many of them are attached to the cottages; but we have taken a field, and divided it into gardens for the poor, and given them to the persons best deserving them.

What is the extent of that field?—About a couple of acres divided into a rood apiece.

At what rent do you grant it?—About 10s. a rood.

In what way is that cultivated by the cottagers?—We do not at all restrict them as to cultivation; they use it as gardens, and the produce is principally consumed by their families; it consists of potatoes and vegetables.

Have you it in your power to make a statement of the produce of those gardens for any given period?—I could easily procure a statement, but I am not able to make one now.

What pecuniary advantage do you suppose this rood of ground produces to the cottager?—I should think it was worth three or four times as much to them as the rent they pay at least.

Are they enabled upon so small a quantity of ground to keep more than a pig?—About one pig is as much as they keep.

What rent do they pay for their cottages?—About 3l. 10s., with a garden added.

Are the rents of the cottages ever paid out of the Poor's Rates?—In two or three instances they have been, when persons have been ill, and have been prevented from paying them.

Have they ever been paid by the parish on the ground of the extent of the individual's family?—Yes, they have been assisted in that way sometimes.

What number in the family should you deem sufficient to justify you in ordering such a relief in the payment of rents?—I have always endeavoured to act upon the principle of never paying their rents at all, and throwing them as much

much as possible upon their own resources. We never pay their rents unless in some particular case.

What wages do that part of the population employed in trades generally earn in the parish of Wragby?—There are a number of small shopkeepers in the town, and they have small farms attached, and they have servants whom they employ; and therefore I can hardly answer the question.

What is the rent of the cottages in the parish of Bardney?—About 5*l*.

Have they land attached to them?—Some few have, but not the greater part of them.

To what cause do you attribute that great disproportion between two neighbouring parishes; the rent being 5*l*. in the one parish, and 3*l*. in the other?—Because in the one parish it belongs to one landlord, who has the whole parish, and who wishes, of course, to have his Labourers in a better state; and the other parish belongs to several small proprietors, who get as much rent as they can.

Are the rents in Bardney paid out of the Parish Rates?—In many instances.

Are the cottagers themselves rated to the Poor Rates?—Not all of them; but the greater part are.

Do the individuals that inhabit them pay the Rates, or are they paid by the landlords?—The persons that inhabit them pay the Rates; they have a great deal of difficulty in collecting the Rates.

Is fuel dear or cheap in that part?—It is tolerably cheap. Coals are about 16*s*. a chaldron, and the expense of carriage is about 7*s*. a chaldron more.

Do you think the comforts of the poor people who have employment have increased or diminished of late years?—I think the comforts have certainly diminished; but I think it is partly owing to the poor people themselves; they do not live so hardily as they used to do, and they dress themselves much more expensively; they do not use the same food, or live in the same way.

During the high times, what was the rate of wages in that neighbourhood?—I was not acquainted with it so long ago as that.

You are not, then, enabled to state to the Committee in any way what was the state of the country during the high times?—No.

In any of the parishes you have mentioned are there Select Vestries?—In the parish of Bardney there is one.

In any of the parishes you have mentioned are there Assistant Overseers?—In the parish of Bardney, and in most of the large parishes.

Have you found any benefit from the appointment of Assistant Overseers?—I think rather the reverse.

Do you find that the Assistant Overseer feels it to be the best thing for himself to reduce the Rates as much as possible?—Yes; I think with very little regard to policy as to where to do it and where not.

Do you find that the Select Vestry in the parish you have mentioned has been of much use?—No, not at all, I think.

Are there workhouses in those parishes?—There is a small description of workhouse.

Is any work performed in that workhouse?—None.

How many does it hold?—In my parish it would hold twenty or thirty persons; but it is never used. In Bardney it would hold seventy to eighty; and there may be thirty or forty people upon the average.

Are the inmates old people in it?—They are principally old and infirm people.

Are there many people in those parishes that are out of employment in the winter?—A good many in the large parishes.

Is it the practice to put those men that are out of regular work upon the roads?—Yes; they send them to the gravel pits and upon the roads; but they do very little work.

Are they put on more for the purpose of giving them employment than because the roads require their labour?—Yes; they are paid so much a week.

Do you find that the Labourers are very anxious to get the rood of land attached to their cottages?—Very anxious.

Do you enter into any agreement or any lease with the men you grant the land to?—No; but I have frequently thought it would be a good plan that they should pay the rent in the autumn.

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Did you give them any seed, or any thing of that sort, when you first gave them the land?—No; I left them to cultivate it as they chose.

Do you find that these men become better members of society in consequence of having that land in their own occupation?—I have no doubt of it; it makes them more moral.

Do they cultivate it with the spade?—Yes.

Do they get manure enough for it?—Yes; their children are sent about the roads to get manure.

Do any of them grow corn upon that rood of land?—No.

Do you think it would be a good plan that they should grow a certain portion of corn upon those pieces of land?—I think a little to feed a pig might be useful.

Where do they get the straw for their pig?—They get some of the farmers to give them a little.

At present they grow chiefly potatoes?—Potatoes and vegetables.

Are those that have the rood of land given to them generally the regular Labourers of the farmer?—They are generally the poor people. It is very much the custom of the farmers to allow them to plant potatoes in the fields; that if the Labourers will manure so much ground, they may have potatoes planted in it.

You are understood to state, that you do not consider the Labourers in your own immediate parish to be in a bad situation?—Not at all.

Do you think the practice of not making up the wages out of the Poor Rate, and of not allowing so much for every child, has had a great tendency not only to ameliorate the condition of the Labourer, but also to decrease the Poor Rates?—I have no doubt of it. I am sure it is the true principle to act upon, to throw them upon their own resources as much as possible; they have so many ways of getting money which no Overseer can point out.

In fact, is not the system of paying so much for every child a great inducement to men to make early and improvident marriages?—Yes.

Do you think that the law which requires a magistrate to commit a man before the birth of a bastard child, has the effect of occasionally inducing men to marry?—I do not think I have observed that; but I have always thought it a very injudicious law to enforce, because if a man cannot find security you commit him to the House of Correction, and then he has no means of maintaining the child when it is born. They might just as well leave it till the child is born, and then he would have an opportunity of getting some little to meet the expenses.

Besides the rule you observe of not making up the wages of labour out of the Poor Rates, do you consider that the practice of giving to the cottagers a rood of land has had a good effect in your parish?—I am convinced that has a good effect.

Do you attribute to those two things your parish being better than the neighbourhood?—Yes; and enforcing the law very strictly; keeping as much as possible to the 43d of Elizabeth. In my own parish, when I came to it, I could find instances of drunken people earning good wages, who were the most forlorn people in the place, and others with less wages living comfortably and respectably; and I immediately saw that the system wanted to be changed.

You have the exclusive management of your own parish?—Yes.

Do you interfere as much in the neighbouring parishes to which you have alluded?—I have not the same authority, because it is merely a magisterial authority that I have in the other parishes; but I endeavour as much as I can to do so.

Do you act as strictly up to the 43d of Elizabeth in the other parishes?—We act as much as we can up to that; there are some instances in large parishes in which we cannot do that.

Do you find that individuals in those parishes where the 43d of Elizabeth is strictly enforced gradually cease to place that dependence upon the Poor Rates which they did formerly, and learn to provide for a time of adversity?—I have no doubt that it makes them more prudent, and they acquire the habit of looking forward more.

How many persons during the last winter obtained their livelihood by being what are called roundmen?—In the parish of Bardney I believe there were twenty-five.

What

What wages were they paid?—Those that had small families about 1s. 8d. a day, and those that had large ones about 2s. *Rev. Henry Foulie.*

Was that paid by the person that employed them, or made up out of the Poor Rates?—It was partly paid by the person that employed them, and partly made up out of the Poor's Rates.

What proportion was made out of the Poor's Rates?—I cannot say, not having seen the books.

How long have you been residing in the parish?—About six years.

Has there been any increase in the Poor's Rates during that time?—No; they have rather decreased; but the County Rate has been increased enormously.

Is it the custom for the farmers to hire Labourers by the year or by the week?—They hire them in general for fifty-one weeks. I believe there is more mischief done to the Poor through the evasion of that Act of Parliament than by any thing else, for they are turned off at the end of fifty-one weeks, and they go to statute fairs, that is to say, they go about for a fortnight before the farmers hire them again; and it is generally found that at that time of the year there are more bastard children got than at any other.

Upon the whole, is there any general distress among the labouring classes in your part of the country?—I should say not.

Does the distress exist now in a much greater degree than it did six years ago?—I think not.

Have they been quiet in your part of the country?—Perfectly quiet.

Do you use thrashing machines in your part of the country?—Yes.

Are they esteemed a great benefit to the farmer?—I think farmers begin to be convinced that they are not so, because they damage the straw, and they are almost as expensive to them, taking into consideration the prime cost and keeping them in order.

Do you think that great mischief arises from the course which is now adopted by farmers, in order to avoid the Law of Settlement, by hiring themselves?—I think so; and I think it might be remedied by not making the settlement a question of hiring, but making a service of six months a settlement.

Would you recommend that in preference to the residence of a certain number of years without applying for relief?—I think that would occasion the least litigation.

Would not a service for any definite period of time, unless it was a very long one, be liable to the same objections that the present service is?—I think that farmers would hardly think it worth their while to fence with the law then.

Then you would decidedly recommend the doing away with that part of the law which relates to hiring?—The result of the best consideration I can give the subject is, that the more facility is given to acquire settlements in contradistinction to derivative settlements the better. Derivative settlement is often a great source of litigation; but acquired settlement is so much more easily proved, that I think that would go a great way to prevent litigation, and the servants would have a much greater interest in serving their masters if they knew they were going to continue on with them; but when they know that the service is to terminate at fifty-one weeks, neither party is interested in pleasing the other.

Do you find that Labourers marry at an earlier age now than they did in former times?—I have understood so, but I am not old enough to speak to that.

Do you consider the Bastardy Laws a great encouragement to improvident marriages?—I think in our part there are very few instances of women marrying men whom they have had children by before.

Do you consider dependence upon the Poor Laws to produce improvident marriages to any extent in your neighbourhood?—No; I think it is not much the case in the northern counties.

Are you acquainted at all with the southern counties?—No.

Do you know that harley that is thrashed by a machine is not so willingly bought by the maltsters as that which has been thrashed by the hand?—I have always heard the farmers say so. I think the practice of giving gardens to the cottagers has been very much prevented by the Law of Settlement, which I think might be altered with advantage. If every entire tenement for six

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months was to give a settlement, I think that would remedy it entirely. I think the easier settlements are gained the more they will tend to cut off litigation.

Would not the consequence of a settlement being so easily acquired by a tenement be an inducement to many persons to diminish the tenements upon the estate, and so to drive the population into large towns?—It might be so; but I think it would not be so to any great extent.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'clock.

Die Mercurii, 15 Decembris 1830.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Pertington, Esquire, is called in; and further Examined, as follows:

Thomas Pertington,
Esq.

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HAVE you any statement that you wish to make in addition to your Evidence yesterday?—There are two or three points on which I wish to make some little additions to my Evidence. The first is with reference to the question of what reductions of rent have taken place in our neighbourhood. I should state that, not in my own parish only, but in the district generally, I know that where rents had been raised in the latter years of the war, in contemplation of those prices, they have been reduced to the amount, in many instances, of one-third, and in some few as much as one-half; and also that where valuations have been made within the last three or four years with a view to the adjustment of rents, those valuations have been made upon the supposition of wheat bearing 16*l.* a load. Upon the subject of improvident marriages, I would venture to state that probably much of that evil would be remedied if the farmers would return to the method that prevailed some years ago, of keeping their unmarried servants as servants in the house, boarding them and lodging them, and giving them small pecuniary wages; and I likewise think that such a measure would contribute very much to the enabling the farmers to employ more hands and at less expense; and particularly to lessen the inconvenience from the immediate want of ready money. I have also two other little observations to make. One is with regard to the quantity of litigation upon questions of settlement, upon which I may venture to say, that one half of the appeals as to Poor Rate would be done away, if it were possible to put the law of hiring and service upon a more simple footing.

On what footing would you propose to put the law as to hiring and service?—Perhaps there might be two plans of doing it. What I meant was, to simplify it in some way or other. If the contract is to be considered, that there should be a complete binding contract for the year, and there should be no such thing as constructive contracts. If the service is to be considered, then it should be a service for a certain time, whether it was under a yearly or a half-yearly contract.

Do you think that service would be the best evidence of contract?—I think it would; but the present system is productive of eternal litigation.

You are aware of the great objection that would be made in the manufacturing districts, by the employers of manufacturers to a settlement by a service of that description?—I know it would; but if so, I would resort to a contract, and require an actual contract for a year, such as cannot be broken through without the consent of both parties. I can mention an instance to illustrate the uncertainty that exists at present. If a man is hired at monthly wages and a month's warning, he gains no settlement; but if he is hired at weekly wages with a month's warning, which would be understood not to be more than a month's service, that is considered as a general hiring, ergo, a hiring for a year, and therefore he gains a settlement. There is another point on which I beg leave to explain an Answer I gave to a Question. I said that nothing but the increased prices would benefit the farmer. When I talked of an increase of price, I meant an increase of a real, not a nominal price; and that increase produced by an increased effective demand, and not by a diminution of the supply

supply of produce. In that case, certainly an increase of price would benefit the farmer; but increase of price of any other sort I do not conceive would benefit him.

How, in your opinion, is that to be produced?—That is the question, I cannot suppose how it is to be produced.

Can it be produced in any other way than by excluding the competition of foreign corn?—I think if foreign corn was to be too far excluded, the mischief would be much greater. I really consider that the operation of the Corn Law of two years ago has worked well, for in two scarce years it prevented the price ever rising very high, and at the same time kept the price to such a level that the farmer had some remuneration. I am sure from what I can remember, that in two such years as the last, the effect of the system that prevailed before the year 1880 would have been to have raised wheat up to 80*l.* or 25*l.* a load, and it has never been for any length of time above 18*l.*

Under the circumstances, with the short crops that there were, was 18*l.* a load any thing like a remunerating price?—I do not think it was.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Thomas Walker, Esquire, is called in; and Examined, as follows:

YOU are now a Magistrate at Lambeth-street?—I am.

How long have you held that situation?—Since July 1829.

Had you, before you became a Magistrate at Lambeth-street, turned your attention to the administration of the Poor Laws?—I began to turn my attention to it in 1817.

Did you try any experiment upon the subject?—I did.

At what place?—At Stratford, in the parish of Manchester.

Is it a distinct township from Manchester?—Yes, it is one of the townships in the parish of Manchester, and the management of the Rates is distinct.

Is the population manufacturing or agricultural?—Partly the one and partly the other; there are a great many weavers.

What is the average of the township?—About 2,000.

What is the population?—About the same number; about 2,000.

When you began your experiment, what plan did you adopt?—I adopted something of the plan of the Select Vestries; it was before the Select Vestry Bill was passed, but it was the plan of a Select Vestry. I got a number of respectable inhabitants to meet every week, or once a fortnight, and I always attended myself; and we managed the affairs. When I first began, the Overseer of the Poor was sent to Lancaster on a charge of manslaughter, and the township was left without any body to manage it, and I began with discharging his duties till he came out of prison, and that gave me considerable knowledge upon the subject.

What was the amount of the Rates for the year, when you began, in 1817?—I think about 1,600*l.*; that includes the County Rate, and every other charge.

What proportion of those 1,600*l.* was applied to the relief of the Poor?—I should think about 1,800*l.*; but it is difficult to say, for a workhouse had lately been built, and the accounts were in a state of confusion.

What were the practices in the administration of the Poor which you specially complained of?—They were much as they are in most places. The Overseer was a man who understood his business exceedingly well; he was a hired Overseer from Manchester. The farmers were, some of them, very liberal in the distribution of the rates; some from favour, and some from other motives; there was no person of influence to take the lead.

Was there a workhouse?—Yes; a workhouse had been very lately built.

What number of inmates were there in that workhouse?—There were very few in the workhouse at the time I began; it was only just built.

Was it the practice to pay any part of the wages of labour out of the Poor Rates?—No; there were able-bodied Labourers, who had money from the Rates, who had large families, or from particular circumstances. It was the common practice to pay the cottage rents out of the Poor Rates.

To whom did the cottages principally belong?—A considerable number of them belonged to Mr. Trafford, who is the great land owner there, and some were under-let to farmers, who had leases for lives.

Were those cottages rated?—No, they were not.

Thomas Partridge,
Esq.

15 December,
1830.

Thomas Walker,
Esq.

What

Thomas Walker,
Esq.

15 December,
1830.

What was the sum of money expended for the relief of the Poor in the year 1817-1818?—From March 1817 to March 1818, 81*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*

What were the payments in the succeeding years?—From March 1818 to March 1819, 537*l.* 19*s.* 7½*d.*; in 1819-20, 489*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*; in 1820-21, 368*l.* 4*s.*: at that time I ceased to reside there regularly.

Can you state the principal means to which you resorted to produce this reduction in the Rates?—By a diligent investigation into each particular case. We kept a register of all the cases. I collected the farmers together as much as I could, (sometimes with difficulty,) and introduced a system that gave them confidence. They were very willing to do what was right, as soon as they were convinced there was somebody to place confidence in. At first they thought I should not be able to effect any improvement, and then that I should not persevere.

What measures did you resort to with regard to the Poor, either to relieve their wants or to diminish the applications for relief?—We had printed forms, the same as used in the town of Manchester, stating the names of the parties, their ages, the number of children, their occupations, and what rent they paid, and whether they belonged to any club. Whenever a person applied for relief, the particulars were all put down, and we gave relief according to each case.

Have you any of those printed papers that you could produce?—I have none here, but if I have any in town I will send one to the Committee.* Then we gave the applicants such relief as we thought their necessities required, but the least possible, either for a given time or not; if for a month, we made them come again at the end of the month, and took their case again, and very likely there would be a difference in their statements. By referring back we compared the one with the other. So we went on, always giving the least possible sum of money; we did not adopt any particular expedient.

Did any case ever arise in which you found a determination on the part of an individual to throw himself upon the Rates?—Yes; they tried all sorts of means to do so.

What course did you adopt under such circumstances?—By persevering against them; they tried in every way to get the better of me, partly to get money, and partly for the sake of the triumph, and to hold together. I used to tell them, "I am but young in the business yet; I am sure you do not deserve any thing, but I cannot exactly prove it, therefore I will give you some money out of my own pocket, but you may be quite sure I shall not go on long paying money out of my own pocket."

Did you meet with support on the part of the magistrates?—Yes; I spoke to the magistrates in the first instance, and they left the management entirely to me.

Have they in no case adjudged relief, where you had thought it expedient to refuse it?—Never. Sometimes I desired the Paupers to go to the magistrates if they were dissatisfied; but they generally said, "It is of no use, because they always hold with you." If by chance they did go, I went myself, and when they told their story, I told mine.

In consequence of that system of administration of the Poor Laws, did no cases of distress ever occur in the parish, which compelled you to deviate from your rule?—No; I always gave relief where I thought it was necessary, and no accident whatever happened.

Did no cases occur to you, where the families were in severe suffering from the improper conduct of the head of the family?—If a woman said she was in a state of starvation on account of the drunkenness of her husband, and that she ought not to suffer for his faults, I used to reply, "Certainly you ought; you married him for better and for worse; you should have been more prudent in your choice; but I shall not let you starve; I will give you something for your children." The magistrates beforetimes used to hold, that if the man was drunken, the woman ought not to suffer.

Did you not punish the father for his misconduct, at the same time that you relieved the family?—Sometimes, for not assisting their families when they could, individuals were sent to prison.

Has the same administration of the Poor Laws gone on in this place since that time?—To a certain extent.

Have the Rates diminished or increased?—I do not know. I have a statement of the monthly payments in May 1817-18, and then in 1827-28. In May 1817

* See Appendix.

the regular payments to the Poor were 68*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.*; that was in the May before I began; I began in June in that year. In 1818 they were 53*l.* 12*s.*; in 1827, (that was long after I had ceased to have any thing to do with the management,) 15*l.* 2*s.*; in 1828, 13*l.* 10*s.* I have no subsequent account.

Have you attended to the management of the Poor in Devonshire?—I have, in the parish of Berry Pomeroy, near Totnes.

Did you observe any particular defects in that administration?—Yes; the same defects I have observed every where—a generally bad administration; the Overseers and the Magistrates almost always at variance, and the Paupers taking advantage, by appealing from the Overseers to the Magistrates.

What was the amount of Rates there?—I do not recollect.

Did you effect any reform in the mal-administration of that place?—I was only there about six months. The farmers were making a reform. I called their attention to it, and opened their eyes to many things they seemed not aware of before. They seemed very well disposed to do what was right, and they had some very understanding men among them; but I do not know what took place after I left.

Have you since turned your attention to the state of the Poor in London?—I have.

What has been the result of your investigation into the administration of the laws in the district to which you have attended in London?—The administration of the law is very much improved since I began.

Have the Rates diminished considerably?—I have a short comparative Statement, from which it appears that the numbers in the workhouses are very materially diminished. The total amount of payments is just below what it was last year; but I am told that the Rates would have been a great deal higher than they are if it had not been for the new method of administering the law. Here is the Statement, which, with the permission of the Committee, I will read.

[The same is read, and is as follows:]

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the PAYMENTS to the POOR in the Parishes and Hamlets of the Lambeth-street Police District in the First Week of November 1828, 1829, 1830; and of the Numbers in the Workhouses at the same Periods.

THE Parishes of the Tower and the Parish of the Trinity, Minories, containing together 885 inhabitants, are not included.

The population, 120,639, is given according to the Census of 1821, and is now probably nearly 140,000.

Parishes.—Whitechapel, St. George's in the East, Limehouse, Poplar, Bromley St. Leonard's, Stratford Bow.

Hamlets.—Mile End Old Town, Mile End New Town.

	1828.	1829.	1830.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Total Payments to the Poor in the First Week in November - - - - -	396 12 -	479 5 2	475 13 7
Is the Workhouses - - - - -	2,431	2,672	2,186

The present strict system was partially commenced in July 1829, but not brought into general and uniform operation till April 1830. Prosperism had of late been gradually increasing, till in the latter part of 1829 its progress was a little checked by the new system. It is probable it would in most of the parishes have gone on increasing till the present time, but the Comparative Statement exhibits a decrease of payments between the first week in November 1829 and the corresponding period of 1830, of 3*l.* 11*s.* 7*d.*, whilst the decrease of the number of inmates in the different workhouses is 488. It may be estimated that the difference between the sum which will be expended for the current year, and that which would have been expended but for the stricter system will amount to at least 5,000*l.* The principal object of the Overseers has been to clear the workhouses, as being not only the most expensive system, but the most destructive of moral habits.

Has there been any particular cause of distress in those parishes?—I think not; they complain a good deal, but I think without much cause.

Thomas Walker,
Esq.
15 December,
1830.

What are the principal complaints?—Want of work, and generally the distress of the times. In my opinion the cry of distress has produced the greater part of what there is; and I think the people persuade themselves they are worse off than they really are.

Do they complain much of the number of Irish Labourers that are employed in the metropolis?—No, I have not heard them.

Do the Irish Labourers interfere with them?—In some respects they do, but I think not to any great extent; the Irish Labourers perform that kind of labour which the English would not perform. I think business could not be carried on without the Irish Labourers.

Have you many Irish applications for relief at your Office?—Yes.

What course do you adopt with them?—Those that have resided for any length of time, we pass home; but if they are only lately come, I have almost uniformly refused to pass them, and leave them to their own resources.

Do you employ the Poor in the workhouses?—Yes.

In what employment?—They differ in different places; in some places in picking oakum.

Is that a profitable employment?—I believe so.

Do you give them any part of the wages they earn?—Part is given them; but I have nothing to do with that.

Are there many men out of employment in your Division now that come to you as a Magistrate to apply for work or money?—Very few come to me.

Do they come to the Bench at which you sit?—The other Magistrates leave the management of the Poor entirely to me.

Do you know any thing respecting Tally shops?—Yes.

Do you think that a Tally shop is a good thing for the labouring classes?—No; a very bad thing.

Do you not conceive that the Tally shops do a great deal of mischief to the labouring classes in London?—I do not know to what extent they exist; but to the extent to which they do exist I am sure they do injury.

Will you explain to the Committee what a Tally shop is?—A Tally shop is a shop where any person can buy any article, paying a small deposit, and taking the article, and engaging to pay by instalments the remainder, for which the security of some other person is given.

For which those people that keep those Tally shops charge an enormous sum?—That I do not know; of course they charge more than in the usual way.

Does it come within your knowledge that a man who, for instance, buys a blanket, and pays 1s. 6d. a week for that blanket, is frequently sent to gaol after he has paid the real value of the blanket, though he has not paid the sum which he has agreed to give to the owner of the shop?—I do not know that. I have sometimes applications from persons with respect to transactions in Tally shops, which appear to me to be cases of great hardship; but we have no power to interfere.

Do you know any thing of Money Benefit Clubs?—I do not.

Are there Select Vestries in the Division of which you are acting as a Magistrate?—Some under Local Acts, but none, I believe, under the General.

Are there any permanent Overseers?—In some of the parishes there is a permanent Overseer, and some not.

Do you know if those permanent Overseers are shopkeepers?—I do not know that they are.

Are they united parishes, or have they the Local Acts?—They are all separate parishes, but most of them have Local Acts.

Have you issued many summonses this last year for the non-payment of Poor Rates?—A great many have been issued.

Can you say how many you have issued this year?—I do not know how many; the county magistrates take a good deal of this business.

Do you find that the parties generally pay upon appearing before you in consequence of the summonses?—A great many pay without appearing; a great many pay afterwards. Some are excused, and some pay in part.

Are the whole of your Paupers employed in the workhouses, or have you any parish farm?—There is no farm.

Do you know if it is the practice in your Division for any part of the wages of labour to be paid out of the Poor Rates?—None.

You

You say that you pass some of the Irish back to Ireland; do you know what the expense is of passing a man and his wife and two children to Ireland?—No.

How do you pass them?—They are sent to Bristol.

Have you ever had an instance of the same party coming back again to the parish to be re-passed?—Very frequently.

In point of fact, do not some Irish Labourers get passed in the winter to Ireland, and come back again the next spring?—It used to be so, I believe; but I should refuse to pass them.

Do you happen to know, if an English Labourer is in Ireland, whether there is any means of passing him home to his parish?—I do not know.

Do you conceive that there is more population in your Division than can be employed?—I have no doubt but that all the people could maintain themselves if they were prudent. The manner in which business is carried on now almost always occasions a number of people to be out of employment, because it is carried on by fits and starts; for instance, at the Docks, there are generally a great number of people waiting there for employment; and then, if two or three vessels come in, they are all busy for a time, and getting good wages; and then again they are idle, and have nothing to do for some time.

Do you know whether there are more Irish Labourers in your Division now than there were several years ago?—No, I do not; but I should think they were increased. An Irishman told me one day, he got 25s. in three days by working in the Docks, and at the end of the fourth day he had nothing left.

You said that Irish Labourers do work which Englishmen will not undertake; what work do you allude to?—What are called bricklayers' Labourers are, I believe, almost all Irishmen.

Do you not know that before Irish Labourers came over here, that work was done by people that came in from the country?—As long as I can remember I believe it has been done by Irishmen.

Have you had any means of knowing that the circumstance of Irish Labourers coming here has thrown those people back upon their parishes?—No.

You said that when first you knew the township in Manchester, 1,600 l. was raised, of which 1,200 l. was applied to the relief of the Poor; what was done with the other 400 l.?—The County Rates, I think, were nearly 500 l., and there were the Church Rates and various expenses.

During the time that you reduced those Rates in the manner you have stated, were the Poor equally well provided for as when the larger sums were raised?—They provided for themselves better. I think they were much better off.

Had you at Manchester frequent cases of persons receiving large wages, that have stopped all at once, and immediately come upon the Poor Rate?—They used to do so more than they do now.

What has prevented it lately?—The better administration of the Poor Laws.

Has it occurred to you whether there might not be any means of punishing this improvidence, which brings them upon the Poor Rate so soon after they are in profitable employment?—No; I would adopt a strict administration of the Poor Laws, and leave that improvidence to punish itself.

Formerly did not that evil prevail to a great extent?—Yes. I have heard of a man earning five guineas a week, and, after being ill a week, coming upon the Poor Rate.

Are there a great many factories in Manchester?—There are.

Are the manufacturers otherwise rated than for those factories; are they rated upon their capital at all?—I do not know. In the township in which I resided there were no factories; there were many weavers.

Were they partly maintained by the Poor Rates?—Yes.

Did the manufacturers at all contribute to those Rates by which they were paid?—No; they were weavers living in cottages.

And the manufacturers whom they served were living in another parish?—Yes.

Consequently they were maintained by Poor's Rates to which the man who had the benefit of their labour did not contribute?—Yes.

In the instances of reduction of Poor Rate you have mentioned, do you attribute that reduction to any other cause than a close adherence to the administration of the law as it stood at the time?—To no other cause.

Thomas Walker,
Esq.

15 December,
1830.

Thomas Walker,
Esq.

15 December,
1830.

Do you think the law sufficient for its object?—I think it would be better if there were no law at all. I act as if there were none; entirely according to my own discretion; and my aim is to abolish pauperism altogether.

Is it not the practice in your Division to give relief to persons, and desire them to find their way to their own parish?—Very frequently.

Do you consider that legal?—It depends upon the way in which it is done.

Does not it often happen that those persons go to parishes which they suppose to be their settlement, and which afterwards prove not to be so?—I suppose that to be the case.

Is not that putting a very heavy charge upon those parishes which those people have been so sent to?—The way in which it is frequently done is,—a person says, "I belong to such a parish;" and the Overseer says, "I cannot pass you to it; there is a trifle to help you on your way;" and gives him a shilling or sixpence.

Do not you conceive that the law is imperative that a man should only be passed by the order of a magistrate to his own parish?—I do not call that passing. A single man says, for instance, "I want to go to Northampton; I want you to pass me." I should positively object. If he said he was in great distress, and I believed him, I should advise the Overseer to give him a trifle, and tell him he must not apply any more, but go on his way.

Is not that a great hardship upon the parish of Northampton, to which that man may not perhaps belong?—Very likely the man does not go at all to Northampton, especially if he does not really belong to it.

Are the Overseers in the habit of bringing such a man before you, that you may judge where his parish is?—If they think it worth while to pass him, they do. The man, perhaps, would come to me on appeal from the Overseers, and say, "I want to be passed;" and I should say, "You are an able-bodied man; I shall not think of passing you."

From your knowledge of the administration of the Poor Laws in your country, was that system commonly carried on, of giving a man a shilling and telling him to find his way to his own parish?—I believe that is common in every parish.

Do you consider that to be the law?—I do not consider it to be contrary to law, and I consider it to be the best in practice.

Is not that a practice that is liable to be very much abused?—I think it is a practice that answers. I think it is the best thing that can be done in such cases.

Do you take money out of the Poor Rate, and give it in that way?—It is given out of the Rate by the Overseer.

Do you consider that a legal application of any thing that is raised by the Rates?—I do not consider it illegal; it is given in the shape of casual relief.

Do not you conceive that the giving a shilling to a man to find his way back to his parish is very often done by the Overseer in consequence of his not being enabled to discover what the legal settlement of the Pauper is?—I dare say it is.

Then, in point of fact, parishes in London are in the habit of giving relief to those persons, telling them to go down and throw themselves upon that parish which the Pauper believes to be his own, but which there is no legal proof to be his own place of settlement?—That is very often the case, I dare say.

Then that practice places upon the country parish a Pauper who could not by law be placed upon it?—It is the same upon all parishes; and the country parishes may do it upon the London parishes.

In point of fact, do country parishes do it?—I do not know; in the neighbourhood of Manchester we used to do it.

Is not an Overseer punishable for removing a Pauper, and desiring him to go to another parish, in an illegal manner?—He does not desire the Pauper to go. If the Overseer were to pay for his place on a coach, and give him money to take him down, I should consider that illegal; but if an able-bodied man were to say, "I want to go down to Portsmouth," I should say, "I shall not relieve you; you must get to Portsmouth as you can." If he were in great distress, I should advise the Overseer to give him a trifle, and let him find his way. In these cases, some reason is generally assigned for wishing to go to a particular place, such as having friends there, or the means of gaining a maintenance.

Do you conceive that such a charge, when made in the parish accounts, is legal?—Certainly. It comes in the shape of casual relief; in the same way as if

if the man applied without saying he wanted to go anywhere, saying that he was in great distress, the Overseer gave him a shilling.

Suppose the Overseer was to say, "I shall not give him any money; you may make an order for relief if you please;" would you attempt to enforce it?—I never make any order.

How long have you acted as magistrate in London?—I have acted two years as a magistrate; I was six months at Worship Street as a county magistrate.

What were the wages gained at Manchester, at the period you were there, by the weavers?—They were low at that time; they varied according to the work; some finer and some coarser. My advice to the people was, not to bring up their children to weaving, because I was convinced that the power looms would supersede hand-weaving.

How do you conceive that a woman would be relieved that came to you with a drunken husband, and whose wages were not more than 6s. a week, even if he worked for twelve or fourteen hours a day?—They were never so low as that; but if there was great distress, we gave some relief. Every case depended upon its own circumstances. I think at that time a man that worked hard got from 10s. to 12s. or 14s. a week.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Mr. Francis Sherborn is called in; and Examined, as follows:

YOU reside at Bedfont, near Hounslow?—I do.

Are you acquainted with the management of the Poor in that parish?—I am.

What is the extent of the parish?—About 2,000 acres.

What is the population?—At the last Census the total number of inhabitants, male and female, was a few short of 1,000.

Is it purely agricultural?—Almost entirely so; there is only one gunpowder manufactory.

What have been the Poor Rates for the last four years?—I think I have been Overseer myself the last four years: the first year of the four it was 3s. in the pound; and the three last, 2s. in the pound; two Rates of 1s. each on an assessment of three fourths of the rack rent; that is, supposing our land rented at about 40s., the assessments are about 30s. per acre.

Have you introduced a Select Vestry?—Not at all.

Have you any persons out of employment in the parish?—None at all. Myself and my brother occupy a considerable portion of the parish, and we have about seventeen persons that do not belong to the parish in our employ; and generally every man, woman and child that can work and is willing to work are employed.

What is the rate of wages?—The regular day pay is about 12s. to 13s.; some few have 14s. and 15s.; but we endeavour to employ their wives and children as well. If a man brings his child, whether it be a boy or a girl, we find something for it to do.

Do you mean to comprehend the labour of the family in the wages you have mentioned?—No; the individual only; the man has 12s. or 13s. Those that can do task work, we put them to it, if we can.

And by that means they are enabled to earn from 12s. to 14s. a week?—They do, when so employed.

In what manner are the wives and children employed?—With respect to ourselves, we have had three thrashing machines; we occupy about 900 acres in that and the adjoining parishes. It is almost all arable land, and it is all highly cultivated. The whole of it is cropped; and, by a large outlay of capital, we employ a great number of horses and a great number of persons; and without having those thrashing machines, we could not get through our business without a considerable importation of Labourers. The women are employed a good deal in the barns, at the thrashing machines; there are three or four able-bodied men who can thrash; and the additional number is made up with their wives and children to each machine.

What sum weekly do the women earn?—4s. and 5s. a week; 8d. or 10d. a day.

And the children?—I begin giving them 2d. a day, which is 1s. a week; and they earn 1s., 2s., 3s. and 4s. a week.

Is any assistance to the wages given out of the Rates?—None, except in illness.

Thomas Walker,
Esq.

15 December,
1830.

Mr.
Francis Sherborn.

Mr.
Francis Stokern.
15 December,
1830.

illness. We encourage the men to be in clubs, and we all of us subscribe to those clubs; and in the winter time, if they want a little assistance by way of loan, we advance it to them, which they repay in the summer.

What is the usual rent of cottages?—Nearly the whole of our Labourers are in our own cottages, and they pay 3*l*. 18*s*. a year; and to those cottages there are small gardens attached; not so much as has been recommended—half an acre, but a few poles each, which is as much as they have time to cultivate, as they are fully employed; and we always, all the year round, make a practice of allowing them potatoes at 1*s*. a bushel, which is cheaper than they can grow them.

Do they keep a pig?—Some of them do.

Can you state what the rate of wages was during the high prices?—I can produce a correct average of the prices of wheat, taken from our own books, from the year 1811 to 1829 inclusive, as follows; namely,--

YEARS.	Average Prices per Quarter.	Rate of Wages per Week.	YEARS.	Average Prices per Quarter.	Rate of Wages per Week.
1811 - -	120/0	18/0	1821 - -	57/6	10/6
1812 - -	145/0	18/0	1822 - -	64/6	10/0
1813 - -	91/0	18/0	1823 - -	68/0	12/0
1814 - -	66/6	12/0	1824 - -	79/0	12/6
1815 - -	71/6	12/0	1825 - -	78/0	12/0
1816 - -	117/6	12/0	1826 - -	63/6	12/0
1817 - -	50/0	12/0	1827 - -	71/0	12/0
1818 - -	32/6	12/0	1828 - -	77/6	12/0
1819 - -	76/6	12/0	1829 & 1830 -	72/0	12/0
1820 - -	62/6	12/0			

I should observe that some years, when corn has risen higher than usual, we have ground wheat or purchased flour for the men at a reduced rate, instead of raising wages.

Is your land of particularly good quality?—It is a gravelly loam; it is a kindly quality, but not first-rate land.

Does it belong to you, or do you rent it?—Part of it is my own land; the remainder we rent.

What do you consider the value of land in your neighbourhood?—Forty shillings per acre, tithe-free, is about the average in our neighbourhood.

Do you attribute the high price of your wheat to good cultivation, or to the quality of the land?—To the quality of the land, which grows a good quality, but not so much in quantity; and of course the better land is cultivated, the better chance you have of growing a good quality.

Does it appear to you to be your interest to employ the large portion of Labourers that you do upon that land, rather than suffer them to be paid out of the Poor Rates?—Certainly. We think the principle a bad one, to drive the men to the Poor Rates; and the additional outlay is made with a view to repay us.

Have you any experience of agriculture in any other part of the country?—I have not, beyond our own immediate neighbourhood.

Do you know any of the neighbouring parishes, where the practice of paying part of the wages out of the Poor Rate prevails?—It is not the practice in our immediate neighbourhood. One advantage we have is, that we are in the vicinity of the London markets, which enables us by extra manure to keep all the land in cultivation, which makes a great difference; and of course if it is all kept in cultivation, and there are no fallows, it enables us to give much more employment.

Has the population of your parish increased since you have occupied your land?—It is increasing.

Do you employ a greater number of persons than you did at first?—It has always been our practice to employ as many as we could.

Do

Do you employ more now than you did in 1811?—I believe we do; in fact we have much more land than we had then, in consequence of Hounslow Heath having been inclosed.

Do you employ more persons upon the same land than you did then?—I do not believe we do.

You say you now employ seventeen persons who do not belong to the parish; why do you employ those persons?—Because there are not persons enough in our parish to do the work.

Are they generally Englishmen or Irishmen?—I scarcely ever have an Irishman ask me for work.

Do you think the agricultural Labourer is in as good a situation as he was during the war?—Quite so, I think.

Has there been a reduction in necessities and in provisions, corresponding with the reduction of wages?—Quite. I think more. I conceive that the poor men in our district now can get more of the necessities of life; and clothing is very much cheaper.

Altogether, you believe that the agricultural Labourer enjoys more of comfort now, than he did in the high times?—In our district I think he does.

You attribute your ability to employ all your Poor to the increase of cultivated land?—I think the increase of population has kept pace with the increase of land that has been brought into cultivation.

Do you depend upon your own farm for manure?—We bring a great deal of our produce to London, and we always load home with manure; and in addition to that we have a great deal of manure from Hounslow Barracks. It is our practice to manure once in three years at furthest. We are paying now about 40*l.* a week for labour.

What is the particular advantage of employing thrashing machines?—I have already said that we are short of Labourers, and we are obliged to employ a considerable number of persons that do not belong to the parish. We are obliged to keep a great number of horses; and very often in the winter time those horses have very little to do, and there is employment by the thrashing machines for those horses, and also for the women and children of the Labourers; and it enables us to get forward with our work; so that when the weather is fine we can take all those Labourers to cultivate the land much more advantageously with them than I could without them. In addition to what I have already said, I conceive that the corn is thrashed cleaner; but it is no saving of expense.

Does it in fact enable you to employ more Labourers?—We employ as many Labourers, certainly. I do not mean to say that we employ more able-bodied Labourers, but we employ as great a number of persons—the women and children belonging to the families of the Labourers.

Has there been any disturbance in your parish?—No disturbance; but we unfortunately had a fire in part of our property on the 9th of November.

Do you conceive that any of your parishioners had any thing to do with that fire?—No, I have not the most distant idea of it. The whole of them offered to watch every night, if I would let them; and there are twenty-eight men that watch nightly by turns; they take it alternately; four watch each night once a week, for which I pay them; but they are all anxious to watch; and they would be very glad, I believe, to detect any person that was to commit that sort of thing, and they would stand by to protect any of our property, to a man.

Are the thrashing machines you use horse machines?—Yes, horse machines. We have two now, one having been burnt.

Do you consider the condition of the labouring classes in your parish to be very good?—About as good as at any time I can recollect.

Are they contented?—Perfectly so.

Do you consider that it is owing to their not having been demoralized by being put in shoals to repair the roads, and by looking for their subsistence from the Poor Rates?—In a great measure it arises from that cause. They have been constantly employed, and at such wages as have been considered satisfactory to all parties.

Is not one of the advantages of machines to enable you to thrash out a large quantity of corn when the prices rise suddenly?—I do not consider that to be any advantage, because we as often lose by it as we gain.

Mr.
Francis Merdoun.
15 December,
1830.

Do you conceive that the power of thrashing out a large quantity of corn in a short time by machines tends to keep down the price of corn?—Most certainly. Have you any workhouse in your parish?—None. Neither have we any occasion for any.

Do you conceive that the giving a little more land to the Labourer would be a benefit to him?—I hardly know how to answer that question. I think our men have very little time to cultivate land, if they had it; they are always occupied now from morning to night.

You mean to say, that in your parish the men are not in a condition to require that relief?—That is my opinion.

Do the Labourers in your parish marry early?—Not particularly so.

Do you find that the young men remain in the parish, or do they go into the world to find other employment?—They branch out. Some go out, and some come in.

Are many men employed in the Gunpowder Manufactory from your parish?—Not a great number. It is at the eastern extremity of the parish; and there are as many employed from other parishes as from our own.

Do the farmers in general in your neighbourhood pursue the same system of employing all the Labourers in the parish, instead of allowing them to go upon the Poor Rates?—Very generally.

How many able-bodied men do you employ per 100 acres?—There are such a variety of classes that it is difficult to answer the question; but I think about ten persons of all classes. We have about sixty.

And is it your opinion that you can profitably employ as many as that?—Yes, we employ them with that view.

Can you state what is the usual proportion of able-bodied Labourers per 100 acres in the four-course system of husbandry?—I cannot, never having turned my attention to it.

What course of husbandry do you follow?—Our mode is so various, owing to the facilities that the London markets give us, that we have no general or regular practice. We consider that so long as we keep the land clean and in condition, we can crop it as we like.

Do not you conceive that upon that system of husbandry you employ at least double the number of men per 100 acres, in your arable farm, as compared with a farm occupied in the four-course system of husbandry?—I do not know that the difference is so great as that, but there is a very great difference, certainly; and we employ about six horses for every 100 acres.

You find that system profitable in consequence of the facility you have of getting manure?—If it were not for that facility we could not adopt that system.

Therefore your practice would not do for persons that lived twenty miles farther from London?—Certainly not.

In the year 1811 and 1812 what quantity of wheat would the weekly wages you paid for labour, being then 18s. per week, purchase?—About a bushel.

At the present moment, when your wages are from 12s. to 13s. a week, how much wheat will it now purchase?—About a bushel and a half.

Are not other necessities for the lower orders as much reduced since that time?—Yes, other things which are quite as much necessities as corn, such as bacon and beef, and clothes. I conceive that the men are better off than they were. The time of those high prices was certainly a time of great privation for them, and a great deal was done for them in the way of charity.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Mr. Thomas Turner is called in; and Examined, as follows:

Mr.
Thomas Turner.

WHERE do you live?—At Sompington, in Sussex.

Have you been concerned in the administration of the Poor Laws in your parish?—I have; I have never been Acting Overseer.

What is the extent of it?—About 2,600 acres.

What is the number of the population?—Between 500 and 600.

What Rates have you paid for the last four years?—We have paid not quite 6s. in the pound, at a valuation of about two-thirds upon our rents.

Is the whole of your parish arable?—No; we have about 980 acres of down. Have you any wood land?—No.

What

What was the rate of wages in your parish last year for men in full employment?—Twenty-pence a day.

Have you raised the wages lately?—Yes.

To what extent?—To 2s. a day.

Do able-bodied persons in full employment receive an addition to their wages, for the support of their families, from the Poor Rates?—Yes.

Can you state what scale of allowances is made to them?—There has been an alteration made since last year: last year, for the fourth child, we gave 2s., and 18d. for each child after that; at present, we give 18d. for the third child, and 18d. for every one afterwards.

Had you last year many persons out of employment?—We had from twelve to fifteen through a considerable part of the winter.

Were they set to any work by the parish?—Yes; they were on the road. I was the surveyor of the road, and I set them to levelling a hill, and to taking off a corner of a very sharp turn.

Did you set them to work by the grate, or by day work?—By day work.

What rate of wages were they paid for such work?—A single man had 8d. a day; a man, with less than four children, had 18d.—9s. a week; and after that we gave 20d. a day with three children; and after that we gave, from the Poor Book, for the fourth child, 2s., and for every child after, 18d.; the same as in other cases.

Did you, then, make a distinction between the married and the single men in what you paid out of the Way Rate?—Yes; we gave to a single man but 8d. a day; a man with a wife and no child, 6s. per week; ditto, one child, 8s. per week; with two, 18d. per day; three children, 20d. per day; and that came out of the Way Rate; and then what was paid for the children afterwards came from the Poor Rate.

Have you made any arrangement for the employment of all the Labourers in your parish?—Upon the breaking out of the disturbances, in fact before they reached Sussex, we made an alteration in our wages, putting them to 2s. a day; and with regard to our Poor Rate, we made a difference of 18d., commencing at the third child, instead of commencing at the fourth, as we did before; and we came to a decision of dividing all the Labourers amongst us upon the different farms, according to our rental.

In what proportion did you agree to employ them?—Taking the whole population, we were to have one man to every 30l. that we stood rated in the Poor Books.

How many men do you employ to 100 acres of arable land in your parish?—Perhaps it would be better for me to state the sum that my farm is rated at in the Poor Book, and to state the number of men employed upon the farm. As the farm was measured some years ago, it was called 485 acres. I have classed the land under three heads: there are 195 acres of very good and middling land; there are eighty acres of inferior land, that we occasionally farm, but it is principally used for sheep; and there are 211 acres of down. The farm is rated at 249l. without the tithes. Then, as we pay a composition for our tithe, the rental of the tithe is added to the rental of the land, making a total of 328l. 4s.; which gives eleven men to the farm.

Is that proportion sufficient to employ the whole of the able-bodied Labourers in the parish?—Nearly the whole of them; but I hardly can give a direct answer to that, because we have a considerable quantity of ground that is occupied by market gardeners, and during a great part of the year they employ a considerable portion of them, and just in the dead of the winter they are thrown upon the parish; and last year, being a very severe winter, we had a great many out of employment; when this year we had hardly any at the commencement of last month.

What are the cottage rents in your parish?—About 18d. and 2s. a week.

Are there any gardens attached to them?—Some of them have small gardens; there are others at a higher rent, that have larger gardens.

Have any facilities been afforded to the Labourers to hire small allotments of land?—No.

Is any portion of the rents of the cottages paid out of the Rates?—Very little.

In what cases is there any assistance given in that way?—For a few widows and infirm people; but in very few cases. Last year we merely paid 13l. for rent.

Mr.
Thomas Turner,
15 December,
1830.

Mr.
Thomas Turner.
15 December,
1830.

Have you any workhouse?—No.

What is the customary weekly allowance that you give to infirm persons?—We have not any stated sum; it depends upon circumstances. To a widow we have given 3s.; sometimes more, under particular circumstances: to a man and his wife, 5s.; sometimes 6s. or 7s.

What, in your opinion, is the present condition of the Labourers in your parish?—They are contented; and I think they are better off than the generality of Labourers in Sussex. Our neighbourhood is better than a great many others.

Are they better or worse off than they were during the high prices?—I was not there at that time; and I do not recollect exactly how they were then.

Were you in business at that time?—No; I have not been in business a great many years.

Will you state what the food of the labouring classes is in your parish?—They generally get pork and bacon and bread. When we were making the alteration respecting the families, by giving 18d. to the third child, I went round to them when a great many of them were at dinner; and I think I never saw a set of healthier children than they were; and there was not a house I went into but what they had meat upon the table—at least pork or bacon.

Do not they get fish too?—Poor people do not very often like fish.

Is there a good deal of smuggling in your parish occasionally?—The last autumn, I have heard, that several of our people, that I was not at all aware of before, had been smuggling; but the smugglers will not have them since. It was said that they found them such rogues that they could not employ them.

Is there a permanent Overseer in your parish?—No.

Have you a Select Vestry?—No.

Can you employ all the men you have divided among yourselves with profit to the farmer?—What we are holding at present, I think we could; but there are some that cannot do so; and in fact we could not get the thing to be quite unanimous; there are one or two that will not take the whole number.

Can you continue to give that advance of wages throughout the year?—As the imposts are at present upon the farmers, we could not do it.

Do the Magistrates of the Bench you attend give any scale of relief?—No.

Do you give the same relief in all cases, for the same number of children, without reference to the condition of the parents?—Not entirely. There are some cases in which a man working in a garden hires a small piece himself, and then he makes greater wages, and we do not consider him to require so much; but for all those that apply to the parish there is a regular valuation.

Do you employ all the Labourers in your farm by day labour, or many by task work?—Most by task work; but our wages are considerably above 2s. a day; for example, the shepherd has 15s. 6d. a week; that is, I pay him 14s. and I pay house rent for him.

Is not the neighbourhood of Worthing a great advantage to your parish?—Yes, it is, in some instances; the women sometimes can earn something by washing.

Do not the market gardens supply Worthing and Brighton?—Brighton, principally.

Have you any game in your parish?—Not a great deal.

You say that some of the farmers object now to those additional men; do you think they could continue to employ them for any great length of time, supposing the prices of agricultural produce to be what they now are?—I do not think they could.

Do you know whether the Poor Rates in your parish have increased?—They have varied very little the last three or four years.

Do you know when this system of paying head money was first introduced into the parish?—No.

You stated that several of the cottages have gardens attached to them; generally speaking, what is the size of the garden; is it as much as a quarter of an acre?—No; some of them are very small spots, and some are large gardens. There are in the parish several owners of small pieces of land, who let off little pieces to some of the industrious people, who use it as a market garden.

What is the rent generally asked in those cases?—I do not know what the rents are when the ground has been let off as garden ground, but I have understood generally very high; some of it, I should think, is let after the rate of 10*l.* or 12*l.* an acre.

You

You now employ eleven men upon your farm; do you conceive that to be a greater strength than you can profitably employ upon your land?—I think I could employ all those hands, if I had the means of paying them.

Do you mean that if you had more capital you could employ them, or if the prices were more remunerating?—Since I have been there I have been unfortunately a loser, in times when things have been against me; therefore I have been trying to do it as cheap as I could.

Would the land be capable of improvement by the application of so much additional labour?—I think it would.

Do the labouring people marry very early in your neighbourhood?—Generally they do.

Do you find that the young men apply to the parish for work, or are they willing to go out of the parish into the world to find employment for themselves elsewhere?—A great many of them had applied last winter, and some few this winter, but not so many.

They do not seem willing to go out to seek their fortunes?—No; very few.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Mr. George Harrison is called in, and Examined, as follows:

YOU are the Overseer of the parish of Lenham, in Kent?—Yes.

Are you the permanent Overseer?—No; the annual Overseer.

Have you any permanent Overseer in that parish?—Yes, we have.

Do you undertake the management of the parish generally?—I do not attend at the Vestries at all, or very seldom. There is a Select Vestry.

What is the extent of your parish?—Seven thousand acres.

Is it principally arable?—About half and half. But a great deal of it is very poor, and not kept in cultivation.

Is it Down land?—Yes.

What is your population?—Between 4,000 and 5,000.

What were the Rates in the last year?—For the last three or four years we have been paying about 12s. at a valuation of three-fourths of the rental. We are a little lower now. I think we shall pay 10s. this year.

What is the rate of wages in your parish?—Twelve shillings per week to able-bodied men.

How long has that been so?—Always we have been paying 12s. a week, but since we have been alarmed a little we have been paying a little more. Some persons have been alarmed; for my own part I have not been alarmed the least.

Has it been the practice to make any addition to the 12s. a week on the score of family?—Yes; a man with three or four children has generally had 3s. or 4s. a week. The parish got rid of them as cheap as they could. There was no regular payment.

Have you any persons out of employment?—We have about forty people unemployed.

How many had you last year?—We had as many more; that is, eighty for four months.

What employment was found for them?—They were sent out to the road to break stones and improve the roads.

Were they paid by the grate?—No; they were sent out, I believe, to keep them out of the way, for they were not attended to much.

What rate of wages did they receive for this work?—The same as if they worked for the farmers. A man with a wife and one child received 12s. a week.

Did they do any work for that payment?—Very little; not what they ought to have done.

What was the distinction made between married and single men?—To a single man they would not give but 8s. 6d. per week.

Whatever might be his ability to work?—Yes.

Do the farmers, in employing their Labourers, make any distinction between married and single men?—Yes, they do. There are, in fact, but very few single men but what are kept at farm-houses. If I have had a single man I have given him 10s. a week.

To what do you attribute your having so few single men?—In consequence of paying them badly.

227.

M

You

Mr.
Thomas Turner,
15 December,
1830.

Mr.
George Harrison,

Mr.
George Harrison.
13 December,
1830.

You think that encourages them to marry?—I think there is no doubt of it. In summer is there full employment for your population?—Not at all; not even in harvest. We had men that were doing nothing this harvest but working on the road.

Has there been any manufacture in your parish at any time?—No.

To what do you attribute this overplus of population?—I cannot say.

Had you the same surplus in the war time?—No. We had some few came home that were discharged from the army.

What was the rate of wages during the years 1811 and 1812 for able-bodied men?—I should say 2s. 6d. a day, from what I recollect.

Were there any men out of employment at that time?—Not at all.

Has any land gone out of cultivation in your parish?—Yes, a great deal.

On what account?—The land is poor, and consequently would not pay the expense of the Poor Rate and tillage.

Is not it rated now?—Yes.

Has there been a valuation of the parish since that period?—No; about that time.

Has the Rate of this land that has gone out of cultivation been altered?—Not at all. It has been laid down with grass, and sheep fed on it. It is occupied by people that have very little property, and therefore they cannot afford to till it.

What are the cottage rents in your neighbourhood?—They have been very high; 2s. 6d. per week, and in some instances 3s. a week.

In whose hands is the property of the cottages principally?—I have about sixteen myself. I let about seven or eight at 2s. a week, and others at 1s. 6d.

Are your cottages rated to the Poor Rates?—They are rated, but it is not paid.

Are the Rates paid by the parish?—Very few now. It has been the case. My rents I receive weekly from the men.

Are there any gardens attached to the cottages?—Yes; generally I give about 20 perches to each cottage, and likewise let the men have some land to till. They clean the land, and put in potatoes, and let me have it the year afterwards; and I charge them no rent, but let them have the land for the year.

What quantity of land do they employ in this way?—Some have 20, and some 30 perches.

Do you limit them to that?—Yes.

Are you acquainted with the produce derived from that quantity of land so cultivated?—They generally plant it with potatoes, about two bushels a perch. On 20 perches they get 40 bushels. Perhaps they get 13, or 14 or 15 sacks on the piece.

Do they manure the land?—They keep a pig, and I allow them straw to make a little manure themselves.

Is this in addition to the wages you give them?—Yes.

At what sum should you estimate the value of those indulgences in the course of a year?—He gets his potatoes for nothing; and if he went to a huckster's, he must buy them at a very high price.

What should you value the produce at?—At 3s. per sack when he digs them up; and if he keeps them for half a year, they are worth 5s. a sack; consequently he reaps all those advantages by having them by him. I should think altogether it is worth 3L, certainly, because if he buys his potatoes by the gallon in the scarce season, he would buy them very high.

Do your men receive any parish allowances in addition to that?—Yes. I have one man that has seven children. I pay him 15s. a week, and he goes to the parish and gets 4s. more.

What extent of land do you hold?—Three hundred acres, my own property. I have occupied 900 acres in the parish, and my ancestors did the same for many years; but now I have declined a little more than a year ago.

What number of Labourers do you employ now upon the 300 acres?—Eight.

What proportion of it is arable?—About 100 acres, and the rest sheep-walk and wood land.

Do the other farmers in the parish employ the same number of Labourers in proportion to their land?—No; I am sorry to say there are a great many occupiers very poor, and who cannot do justice to their land. When the proprietors hold it, they employ more than the occupiers.

Do

Do you think they could employ more labour profitably, under existing circumstances, if they had capital?—They could improve the property; but as to whether they could realize enough to pay interest upon the capital, I think not upon the poorer part of the parish.

Has there been any attempt to introduce spade cultivation in your parish?—I have given a sum to the Overseer for four acres, which he is to get dug by the spade. I give him the same price that I could have it ploughed for, that is, 13s. an acre; and they make it up out of the Poor Rate to 1*l.* an acre, which is what they pay for having it dug with the spade.

What depth does he dig it?—The same as the plough, it ought to be, but I am afraid he does not dig it so deep.

For what crop is that land intended?—Barley.

If they were to trench that ground deeper, should you expect a better return?—Certainly. They go eight inches now.

Do you plough eight inches deep?—We do on the hill.

What is your substratum?—It is a gravelly soil. We have a variety of soils. I suppose 2,000 acres of the parish is very stiff flinty land.

Is it your opinion, that by the application of spade husbandry there, the produce would be materially increased?—I think not.

You would as soon have the field well ploughed nine inches deep as dug?—Yes.

What expense would it be to plough a field nine inches deep?—To plough it eight inches deep would be 13s. an acre; and I do not wish for it deeper than eight inches.

Has it always been the practice in your parish to make a difference in the wages between single men and married men?—It has of late years.

Do you recollect when that practice was introduced?—Not many years ago; I may say, about seven years, perhaps.

Have many of the young men of your parish gone out of it of late years?—No; but few. There have been a great many young men married in consequence of their being kept short. Some of them have married at eighteen. It has not been the case so much the last year or two as it was some years since. I believe they found it more difficult to get a living, because they were obliged to hire a house, and those sort of things; and they began to feel the evil of it.

Has there been any emigration from your neighbourhood to America?—A few families we have sent out; sufficient to cost the parish 130*l.*, which the parish advanced.

When was that?—The year before last.

How many went?—Three families.

Have accounts been received from them since they went out?—Not, except to their friends; the parish have never received any information.

Has it been much talked of in the parish since they went?—No.

You have said, that, owing to the poverty of the occupiers, there are a smaller number of persons employed than usual; do you mean to say, that the occupiers have become poorer of late years than they were formerly?—Certainly.

What do you attribute that to?—Not to the price of corn this year; but of late years the prices have been very bad, and the taxation has been very heavy.

What proportion of land has been thrown out of cultivation since your time in the parish?—I should say that where a farmer with a small farm was growing 40 acres of wheat, he would grow 30 now.

Does not that circumstance partly account for the surplus Labourers?—I think it does so, partly.

Have rents been much lowered in your parish?—I believe not; I left off farming on account of my rent being too high.

Has the tithe been lowered in your parish?—No, but little. The corn tithe is taken in kind. There is a composition for those that like to fall into it, but I prefer having mine taken in kind. The vicarial tithes have been lowered something.

Do you mean to say that the war rents are kept up now?—There was a demand to raise them. I had a farm that I was paying 500*l.* a year for, and which my ancestors, between 1790 and 1800, were giving 300*l.* a year for; and that made me leave off farming entirely.

Mr.
George Harrison.
15 December,
1830.

Mr.
George Harrison.

In the surrounding neighbourhood, have not rents been lowered as much as 50 per cent.?—I believe they have, in some cases.

15 December,
1830.

With the reductions that have taken place in the surrounding neighbourhood, do you not think that the rents are as low now as they were in 1792, if you make an allowance for the money that has been expended in buildings and permanent improvements?—I should think not.

Do not you think that a great many landlords have lowered as much as 50 per cent.?—Some have, I have no doubt.

If 50 per cent. had been taken from yours, would you not have gladly continued?—Yes.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Jovis, 16th Decembris 1830.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend Stephen Demainbray is called in; and further Examined, as follows:

Rev.
S. Demainbray.

16 December,
1830.

HAVE you, according to the request of the Committee, prepared an Account of the Produce derived by the Spade Husbandry in your parish?—I have prepared a Return of the Number of Days, and Parts of Days, employed by the Poor Men in the cultivation of an Acre of Land, also of the Profits arising to the Poor Man from the cultivation of an Acre of Land, according to the nature of the soil and the different kinds of crops, calculated on an average in three different parts of the parish of Broad Somerford, Wilts.

[The Witness delivers in the same, which is read, and is as follows:]

AN ACCOUNT of the PRODUCE derived by POOR MEN from SPADE HUSBANDRY in the Parish of Broad Somerford, in the County of Wilts, in the Year 1830.

In the Down Field, which is stiff heavy Land.

TENANTS' NAMES.	Quantity of Land.			Potatoes.		Wheat.			Potatoes per Acre.			Wheat per Acre.		
	A.	R.	P.	q.	R.	q.	R.		q.	R.	P.	q.	R.	P.
William Tarrant had on	-	1	34	-	-	3	2	equal to	-	-	-	7	2	1
Jacob Miles - - ditto	-	1	-	17	-	-	-	ditto	68	-	-	-	-	-
William Barnes - ditto	-	-	39	25	-	-	-	ditto	108	5	1	-	-	-
Charles Turner - ditto	-	-	39	27	-	-	-	ditto	110	3	-	-	-	-
William Tennar - ditto	-	2	39	-	-	4	-	ditto	-	-	-	5	1	5
Richard Woodman ditto	1	-	-	20	-	-	-	ditto	80	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto - - - ditto	1	-	-	-	-	6	-	ditto	-	-	-	6	-	-
Richard Turner - ditto	-	1	-	20	-	-	-	ditto	80	-	-	-	-	-
Ditto - - - ditto	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	ditto	-	-	-	5	-	-
									441	1	1	25	3	3

	Potatoes.			Wheat.		
	q.	R.	P.	q.	R.	P.
Average Produce per Acre	50441	1	1	406	3	3
	88	1	-	6	2	3

D' - - The Poor Man in account with himself - - C'

In raising an Acre of Potatoes in the Down Field.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To digging an Acre, at 3d. per bag or perch	2	-	-				
50 Sacks of Potatoes for seed, at 5s a sack, which was the price last spring	2	10	-				
Four Days' Work for a Man, at 1/6 a day, planting	-	6	-				
Four Days' Work for a Woman, at 6d. a day, to help	-	2	-				
Four Days' Work for a Man hoeing, at 1/6 a day	-	6	-				
Four Days' Work for a Man earthing-up	-	6	-	To 83 sacks & bushels of Potatoes, at the present average price of 4s per sack	17	13	-
To digging up the Crop (in a workmanlike manner, so as the land would be fit to put to Wheat or Barley without being re-dug) 5d. a sack; and take the average of 88 sacks per acre it will amount to	1	16	8				
Expense of haling Dung	1	-	-				
Rest of Acre	1	10	-				
	9	16	8				
The Net Profit to the Poor Man	7	15	4				
£.	17	13	-				

In raising an Acre of Wheat in the Down Field.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Two bushels and a half of Wheat for seed, at 7/6 a bushel	-	18	9				
To hoeing in an Acre of Wheat	-	5	-				
To weeding same	-	5	-				
To mowing same	-	7	-				
To thrashing out 6 sacks & bushels, at 1/6 a sack	-	9	9	To 3 quarters & bushels of Wheat, at the present price of 3s. 4s. a quarter	10	8	-
Haling Dung	1	-	-				
Rest of Acre	1	10	-				
	4	15	6				
Net Profit to the Poor Man	5	12	6				
£.	10	8	-				

In the Eighteen Acre Piece, which has been let to the Poor ever since 1819, and much improved in Quality by their Mode of Cultivation.

TENANT'S NAMES.	Quantity of Land.	Potatoes.	Wheat.		Potatoes per Acre.	Wheat per Acre.
	A. R. P.	S. E.	S. E.		S. E. P.	S. E. P.
William Towant had an	- 2 -	50 -	- -	equal to	100 - -	- -
Ditto - ditto	- 2 5 -	- -	5 -	ditto -	- -	9 1 2
Charles Giddins - ditto	- 1 -	- -	5 1	ditto -	- -	9 - -
Mary Knapp - ditto	- 1 -	- -	2 1	ditto -	- -	9 - -
Oliver Porter - ditto	- 1 -	- -	2 2	ditto -	- -	10 - -
Jasper Porter - ditto	- 1 -	19 -	- -	ditto -	76 - -	- -
Thomas Tardle - ditto	- 2 -	40 -	- -	ditto -	80 - -	- -
Ditto - ditto	- 2 -	- -	3 2	ditto -	- -	7 - -
Joseph Miles - ditto	- 1 -	24 -	- -	ditto -	56 - -	- -
Ditto - ditto	- 1 -	- -	1 3	ditto -	- -	7 - -
John Knapp - ditto	- 1 -	35 -	- -	ditto -	68 2 1	- -
Ditto - ditto	- 1 -	- -	7 2	ditto -	- -	7 2 -
					450 2 1	58 3 5
		Potatoes.	Wheat.			
		S. E. P.	S. E. P.			
		5420 2 1	7158 3 3			
Average Produce per Acre		84 - 1	8 1 2			

Res.
S. Desborough.D^r - - - The Poor Man in account with himself - - - C16 December,
1830.*In raising an Acre of Potatoes in the Eighteen Acre Piece.*

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
The same Expense as mentioned in the Down Field Account, namely - - - -	9 16 8		
Deduct 1/8 for digging up the Crop, the average being less - -	1 8		
Net Profit to the Poor Man - -		9 15 -	
		7 3 -	
		£. 16 16 -	
To 84 sacks of Potatoes, at 4/ per sack - - - -			
			16 16 -

In raising an Acre of Wheat in Eighteen Acre Piece.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
The same Expense as mentioned in the Down Field Account, namely - - - -	4 15 6		
Add 2/8 more for thrashing, the average Crop being greater - -	3 8		
Net Profit to the Poor Man - -		4 18 2	
		8 9 10	
		£. 13 8 -	
To 4 quarters, 1 bushel and 2 pecks of Wheat, at 34. 4s. a year - - - -			
			13 8 -

In the Upper Marsh Farm, which is poor light Land, and was let to the Poor soon after Michaelmas 1829.

TENANTS' NAMES.	Quantity of Land.	Potatoes.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.		Potatoes per Acre.	Wheat per Acre.	Barley per Acre.	Oats per Acre.
	A. R. P.	S. R.	S. R.	S. R.	S. R.		S. R. P.	S. R. P.	S. R. P.	S. R. P.
Harry Hindon had on -	3 - -	60 -	- -	- -	- -	equal to	80 - -	- -	- -	- -
Ditto - ditto -	3 - -	- -	- -	- -	7 1	ditto	- -	- -	- -	14 2 -
Richard Fooking ditto -	1 - -	- -	6 -	- -	- -	ditto	- -	6 - -	- -	- -
Giles Porter - ditto -	1 - -	80 -	- -	- -	- -	ditto	80 - -	- -	- -	- -
Robert Croker - ditto -	2 - -	40 -	- -	- -	- -	ditto	80 - -	- -	- -	- -
Ditto - ditto -	2 - -	- -	4 2	- -	- -	ditto	- -	9 - -	- -	- -
John Knapp - ditto -	2 - -	- -	- -	5 -	- -	ditto	- -	- -	10 - -	- -
Ditto - ditto -	2 - -	- -	- -	- -	8 -	ditto	- -	- -	- -	16 - -
Wheeler - ditto -	1 - -	- -	- -	8 -	- -	ditto	- -	- -	8 - -	- -
John Cansely - ditto -	2 - -	34 -	- -	- -	- -	ditto	68 - -	- -	- -	- -
Ditto - ditto -	2 - -	- -	- -	- -	8 -	ditto	- -	- -	- -	16 - -
Jacob Tangle - ditto -	2 10	50 -	- -	- -	- -	ditto	88 3 2	- -	- -	- -
Ditto - ditto -	1 30	- -	- -	- -	7 -	ditto	- -	- -	- -	16 - -
Thomas Knapp - ditto -	1 - -	20 -	- -	- -	- -	ditto	80 - -	- -	- -	- -
Ditto - ditto -	1 - -	- -	8 -	- -	- -	ditto	- -	8 - -	- -	- -
Ditto - ditto -	1 - -	- -	- -	- -	10 -	ditto	- -	- -	- -	20 - -
							476 3 2	22 - -	18 - -	72 2 -

	Potatoes.	Wheat.	Barley.	Oats.
	S. R. P.	S. R. P.	S. R. P.	S. R. P.
Average Produce per Acre	6476 3 2	3123 - -	2118 - -	572 2 -
	79 1 3	7 2 2	9 - -	14 2 -

D. . . . The Poor Man in account with himself . . . C

Rev.
S. Downing,
16 December,
1830.

In raising an Acre of Potatoes in the Upper Marsh Farm.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
The same Expense as mentioned before, namely . . .	9	16	8							
Deduct 9/6 for digging up the Crop, the average being less . . .	3	6								
				9	13	8	To 79 sacks, 1 bushel and 3 pecks of Potatoes, at 4/ per sack . . .	15	7	9
Net Profit to the Poor Man . . .				5	14	7				
	£.			15	7	9				

In raising an Acre of Wheat in Upper Marsh.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
The same Expense as before mentioned, namely . . .	4	15	6							
Add for thrashing out, the average being greater . . .	1	6					To 3 quarters, 6 bushels and 2 pecks of Wheat, at 3l. 4s. a quarter . . .	12	4	-
Net Profit to the Poor Man . . .				4	17	-				
				7	7	-				
	£.			12	4	-				

In raising an Acre of Barley in Upper Marsh.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Four bushels and two pecks of Barley, for seed, at 3/6 per bushel . . .	-	15	9							
To treading in an Acre of Barley . . .	-	5	-							
To mowing same . . .	-	1	6							
To thrashing out 9 sacks of Barley, at 10d. per sack . . .	-	7	6				To 4 quarters and 4 bushels of Barley, at 3s. 6d. per quarter . . .	7	17	6
Hiring Dung . . .	1	-	-							
Rent per Acre . . .	1	10	-							
				3	19	9				
Net Profit to the Poor Man . . .				3	17	9				
	£.			7	17	6				

In raising an Acre of Oats in Upper Marsh.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
The same Expense as for Barley, namely . . .	3	19	9							
Add more for thrashing . . .	2	3					To 5 quarters, 6 bushels and 1 peck of Oats, at 24/ per quarter . . .	8	14	-
Net Profit to the Poor Man . . .				4	1	11				
				4	15	1				
	£.			8	14	-				

Do you wish to make any explanation of the account you have given in?—I wish to observe, that in calculating the expense of raising the potatoes, I have taken it as if it were done by means of hired labour; whereas, in fact, the greater part of the labour is performed by the man and his family, so that the profit to him is in fact much greater than appears upon this calculation.

You are understood to have stated that the land occupied by the poor tenantry pays you a rent, although when it was occupied by the farmer it paid you no rent?—Certainly; that is the case. I also beg to mention, that in the parish of Highworth, in which my son resides, they have been obliged to give the poor labourers, the single men, 12s. 6d. a week, which has been completely compulsory,

Rev.
S. Desaiidray.
16 December,
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pulsory, and 2s. a head additional to each of the family. At this moment, in my parish of Somerford, the poor man's wages are still 8s. a week; and they all seem contented and comfortable; there has not been the least disposition to disturbance; and I believe that if there had been, they would one and all have been disposed to repress it; and all this I attribute to the Poor having had land to cultivate in the manner I have stated. When I was examined before, I was asked a question, which I was not able to answer, as to the saving produced in Poor Rates by giving land to the Poor; but I have here a letter from my son, in which he states the name of a poor man, who told him that if he had not got land he must, with his large family, have come upon the parish; and if so, would have to receive upwards of 1*l.* a week.

Did you, when you let that land to those poor persons, make any advances to them to begin the cultivation of it?—Not a sixpence.

Did the parish make any?—I believe not. In the inclosure they gave each man a small portion of land, and they gradually increased it.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Mr. Richard Wardroper is called in; and Examined, as follows:

Mr.
R. Wardroper.

YOU are Clerk to the Magistrates of Sussex, for the Lower Division of Chichester Rape?—Yes.

Are you resident at Midhurst?—I am.

What is the extent of the parish of Midhurst?—Four hundred and seven acres.

What was the population in 1821?—One thousand three hundred and thirty-five.

Has that population increased since?—I apprehend it has.

Was there ever any particular trade in that place?—Not within my recollection.

To what cause do you attribute the large population of it, compared with the acreage?—I have not the means of answering that question; but we have a considerable charity in the place, and we are induced to think that many persons are disposed to settle themselves with a view of partaking of that charity.

To what amount is that charity?—About 200*l.* a year.

How is the right to partake of it entailed?—Any parishioner settled in the parish.

What were the Poor Rates in the pound last year?—Twelve shillings.

Have they been to that amount for some years?—Yes, they have.

On what valuation?—A valuation, taken about twelve years ago, upon the rack rent.

What is the rental of the parish?—About 2,500*l.* a year; a little more.

What number of Rate-payers are there?—One hundred and sixty-four.

What number of individuals perpetually receiving parish relief?—One hundred and eighty-six.

How many of them are in the Poorhouse?—Thirty-two.

How many receive relief in the shape of employment, or on account of their families?—About forty.

How many receive relief on account of old age or sickness?—About twenty.

What is the rate of wages in your parish?—Nine shillings and sixpence to a married man.

Do you mean the rate of wages paid by the farmers, or by the parish?—By both, at the present moment.

Will you state the payments to the single men, the payments to married men, and the allowances made on account of their families?—The payments to married men were 8s. a week, and to single men 3s. 6*d.*, but now they are increased considerably in both cases; it is now 9s. 6*d.* to married men, and 6s. 6*d.* to single men.

Have you a copy of the Scale which was adopted in that district in November 1828?—I have.

[The same is delivered in, and read, and is as follows:]

LOWER RATE DIVISION OF THE RATE OF CHICHESTER.

Midhurst, 27th November 1828.

It is ordered that increased Allowances shall be made by the Parishes within this Division, as under:—

	Late Allowance.		Allowance to be varied according to the Price of Corn.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Two Children - - - - -	8	-	9	-
One Child - - - - -	7	-	7	10
No Child - - - - -	6	-	6	8
Single Man - - - - -	3	6	4	-

All Children above two, and above the age of three months, to be allowed 1s. 3d. each. Working Hours for Labourers, from March till September, from Five in the morning till Seven at night. Allowed two hours and a half for meals. To be deducted for Labourers' absence from work, 1d. per hour. One month's imprisonment to persons convicted of sobriety.

Signed by the Magistrates.

How are the men employed?—In digging materials for the roads, and in labouring on the roads.

Are they employed in task work, or by the day?—Generally by the day, occasionally in task work.

Are they profitably employed?—I should say not.

Have you any means of stating whether the farmers in that parish employ many Labourers?—Very few.

What is the quantity of arable land in the parish?—One hundred and fifty-seven statute acres.

Is the whole of the work upon those 157 acres done by the Labourers of the parish?—No, certainly not; I do not apprehend that more than three or four men are employed upon that belonging to the parish.

Do the farmers who hold that quantity of arable land, rent land in other parishes?—They do.

Do they employ the Labourers of other parishes upon it?—They do, chiefly.

What are the rents of cottages in that parish?—From 3*l.* to 6*l.*; the greater number at 5*l.* There are a few borough houses which are let more moderately, at about 3*l.* a house.

Is there any land attached to them?—None whatever.

Is the property in cottages vested in few or in many hands?—In many.

Are they principally built by speculators?—Yes.

Has any attempt been made to introduce any manufacture into the place?—Not within my recollection.

Is there much uncultivated land in the parish of Midhurst?—About 100 acres.

Of what quality is that land?—Of very indifferent quality indeed—heath land.

Has any of that land been inclosed, or is it in the progress of inclosure, for the purposes of cultivation, by the permission of the proprietor?—Yes; I think about fourteen acres.

Is the land so in progress of cultivation intended to be divided into allotments, or is it to be cultivated for the benefit of the parish?—That is not determined upon; at present the parish have it; and a certain number of gentlemen in the parish are to form a committee, and to decide upon it.

How many persons are now employed upon it?—I think about twenty.

Are they working by the day, or by task work?—When they were embanking and the making fences, they were employed at task work—by the rod; but when they began to dig the soil up, they are now working by the day.

Mr.
A. Wardrop.
16 December,
1820.

Mr.
R. Wardrop.
16 December,
1830.

What wages are they to receive?—That has not been decided upon. I have been given to understand that they are to have 12s. a week; but it is impossible that the parish can afford to give such wages, and we have been giving them about 9s. 6d.

In your opinion, does this method appear likely to afford a remedy to the evil of want of employment of which you complain?—As far as my judgment goes, I think so.

Is it customary in your parish to pay the rent of cottages out of the Rates?—No, it is not.

Have you a Select Vestry in your parish?—We have not.

Have you a permanent Overseer?—We have.

Is he a shopkeeper?—No, certainly not.

Have you had any disturbances at Midhurst?—None.

Have you had any opportunity of comparing the state of the Poor at the present time with their state in the latter years of the war?—I cannot say that I have.

What was the rate of wages during the latter years of the war?—As far as my recollection goes, about 12s.

Was there the same demand upon parish relief at that time?—Nearly, I think.

Do the Poor appear to you to be in a much worse condition than they were during the latter years of the war?—That is a general question, which I am hardly competent to answer.

What was the sum raised in the parish last year?—I do not know the sum raised, but I know the sum expended; the sum expended was upwards of 1,700*l*.

Was there a Highway Rate?—Yes, there was.

Was that kept distinct from the Poor's Rate?—Entirely so.

What was the amount of that?—I think 6d. in the pound.

Is it the practice of the magistrates to order relief, without inquiry whether any employment has been offered to the individuals?—No; they always inquire.

Have the magistrates drawn out a scale for relief?—Yes; the one which is now before the Committee; not since that.

Do they act according to that scale?—They did, up to the time of the late disturbances.

Without reference to particular cases?—Yes.

You are clerk of the magistrates of the Midhurst Bench; are applications to them for relief very frequent?—They have been very frequent; indeed they have come in bodies from some of the parishes; in particular from the parish of Harting and the parish of Roegate; they have come twelve and fourteen at a time.

From what you have observed as clerk of the magistrates, do you not think that employing the men in numbers upon the roads, creates great dissatisfaction among them?—I think it does.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Mr. John Cameron is called in; and Examined, as follows:

Mr. John Cameron.

YOU are steward of Mr. Poyntz of Cowdray, near Midhurst, in the Lower Rape of Chichester, in the county of Sussex?—I am.

Can you inform the Committee what is the number of acres in the parish of Farnhurst, near Midhurst?—Three thousand two hundred and twenty-five statute acres. When I say that, I am not sure that I am accurate.

How many acres of woodland are there in that parish?—Eight hundred and ninety-five acres belonging to Mr. Poyntz, but there are more woodlands not belonging to him.

Are the Poor Rates heavy in that parish?—They are very heavy.

Can you state the population of that parish at the last Census in 1821?—Three hundred and forty.

Do you conceive that the population has increased since that period?—I think probably it may have increased.

What is the general employment for the people in that parish?—Cutting wood affords the greatest part of the employment. In the winter season there are more employed in the woods than in any other part.

Is there a Poorhouse in the parish?—No.

Is

Is it one of the united parishes?—It is united with the parish of Easchourne and fourteen other parishes. Mr. John Cameron.

Can you tell the Committee how many there are at this moment in the Poor-house of that parish?—No. 16 December, 1830.

Do you know whether there are many people usually out of employ in that parish in the winter?—There have been sometimes a great many out of employment, but not usually.

Do you think there are more men in that parish than can be profitably employed?—No.

Is there a permanent overseer there?—No.

Are the men employed upon the roads in that parish when out of employment?—They have been, but not much within these two years. When they have been out of employment, I have set them to work in ditching and planting, to prevent their being on the road.

Do you think that has been beneficial?—I am sure it has.

What are the wages given in the parish in the summer?—They have been, I believe, 1s. 8d. a day; they are now 2s.

What do they give the men not in constant work?—I cannot state that positively, but I believe as low as 1s. a day; a single man, I believe, as low as 4d. and 6d. or 9d.

Is the arable land in the parish good or bad?—A great deal of it is very bad; generally speaking, it is very thin and cold.

Is it land that you would throw out of cultivation if you did not wish to give employment to the people?—My opinion is, that much of it ought to be thrown out of cultivation if it were not to give employment to the people.

Has that parish been disturbed?—No; the men did collect together, merely to see if they could get their wages advanced.

Are any thrashing machines employed in the parish?—No.

In point of fact, are the Labourers principally employed in the woods?—Yes.

You were understood to say, that there are not more men in the parish than might be profitably employed; how do you reconcile that answer with what you have just stated, that you would recommend some of the land being put out of cultivation?—On those woodlands there are seventy-five acres cut every year; and a great deal of it is very bad, and wants ditching, and consequently there is a great deal of labour bestowed at every cutting. There is a great deal of the land that is in cultivation, which, in consequence of the poverty of the occupiers, has never had the labour employed upon it that ought to be employed in order to make it produce. If a proper proportion of labour were bestowed upon the whole of that parish, as it ought to be, the produce of the parish would be three times what it is now; and therefore if the men were allotted to the farms in proper proportions, I am satisfied that there is not a Labourer too much in the parish. I have not only my own opinion for that, but I have the opinion of two industrious farmers of the place, who do farm their land well, that if every one would take their proportion of labour, we should not have at this time, and we never should have had, hands out of employment. They have now proposed to allot the men; but the mischief is, that there are five or six little farmers in the parish that cannot pay their men, and they cannot pay their Rates. There is one man living upon his own farm at this time who is three Rates behind.

Then the remedy which you would propose, in order to enable the population to be employed profitably, would be by a Labour Rate, if such Labour Rate could be paid by the occupiers?—Exactly. I can state an instance in another parish where we have not a Labour Rate; but I have been trying these three years in the parish of Easchourne to get the whole of the parties occupying land to take their proportion of labour, because they have had sometimes from twenty to thirty in the winter upon the road. Upon my stating to them the ruin they were bringing upon themselves by allowing this to go on, they agreed that they would do it; but when they came to the point, there is one man, owning about 300 acres in the parish of his own, a man that has got from 40,000*l.* to 50,000*l.* in the Funds, and he would not take one man, and neither does he at this time employ one man in the parish.

As you have considered the subject of a Labour Rate, upon the supposition of the entire labour in the parish being absorbed by the occupiers, what remedy would

Mr. John Cameron.
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1830.

would you give the occupier, in the event of the Labourer being ill-conducted and discharged by him?—I have considered that very much, but I cannot come to any conclusion; but I think, when a party like the one I have now mentioned would not employ his proportion, he should be compelled.

Do you think it would be possible to have a Labour Rate without fixing the amount of wages to be given?—Yes, I do.

Do not you think a farmer might take his quota of men, and only give them a shilling a week?—No; if it was enacted that the whole of the Labourers in the parish should be fairly allotted to the property in the parish, I do think myself that every man would endeavour to make his men happy and comfortable. I can only say from experience, having talked to a great many of them, and men that have been rather hard with their men, they said they would endeavour every thing in their power to enable those men to earn a living for their families. I have told them that they should employ the wives and children of the Labourers, even if they can only earn two-pence a day; and I told them that I would engage that there should not be one man out of the number allotted to Mr. Poyntz, which is between forty and fifty, that should ever come to the parish for relief. In the parish of Easebourne, and in Lodsworth, Farnhurst, Litchmere, Ingershall, and some part of Ambersham, I have allowed the people to plant potatoes between the trees, and this year they have grown upwards of 5,000 bushels of potatoes; the year before they grew 4,000; the year before that they grew 3,000; and the first year they grew not above 1,000; because many of them would not try it in the first place, but after having seen others try it and succeed, they were sorry they had not done it themselves; and those potatoes have enabled many of those men to fatten their pigs, and so on, leaving a great surplus for their families.

You lend them the land?—Yes, when the trees are planted. I plant them in rows to accommodate them to plant potatoes between.

Would it answer for them to pay rent for such land which was not planted, and to carry on the cultivation?—I do not know. I have considered that a good deal; but if they did pay a rent, I think it should be a very trifling one.

Do the trees do the potatoes any injury?—They cannot, of course, make so much of the land as they would supposing the trees were not there, because, of course, I do not allow them to go too near the trees, otherwise they might injure them; and therefore they cannot plant above half the ground.

Do they manure that ground?—No.

Can you state at all, what produce they have got from any given quantity of land?—I do not know that I can; because, in the first place, the whole of the land is not planted.

Is not there a prejudice among the farmers against the men keeping pigs, whom they employ in their barns and with their horses?—With regard to those who go with their horses, I believe there is an objection.

And also with respect to their thrashers?—I cannot speak to that. I have not made any objection myself.

What might be the value of the land per annum, which you have lent to the people in the manner you have stated?—Some of it not 1s. per acre. Some of it perhaps 2s. 6d. an acre.

Do you occupy the farm yourself?—For Mr. Poyntz; not for myself.

Have you any Labourers attached to that farm, and constantly employed upon it?—A great number.

How much a week did you pay those Labourers?—Twelve shillings a week to all able men, whether married or single. It was 10s. a week before the disturbances.

How long have you managed this farm for Mr. Poyntz?—Upwards of six years.

Have you known the farm a longer time than that?—No.

When you first took the management of the farm, were the same number of persons employed upon it that are employed upon it now?—No; less.

Has the farm considerably improved within that time?—Yes.

Is there much land in the same parish, occupied by other people besides Mr. Poyntz?—Yes.

Do many of them keep Labourers who are constantly employed upon their farms?—Yes.

Are

Are you aware of the wages they pay to such Labourers?—I cannot speak positively to that. I believe some 9s. and some 10s., and I do not know that there might not be instances of 8s.; but I cannot speak positively to that.

How long have you known the parish altogether?—No longer than I have known the farm. I came from Warwickshire to that farm.

Has there been any decrease in the number of Labourers employed by the other persons since you came to live in that county?—I cannot say whether there may be a decrease since I came there, but I can say that they have never been employed to do the labour that they ought to do.

Do you mean to say, that they have not employed the quantity of labour which they ought to have done, in order to have their farms in the best possible cultivation?—I do not mean to say the best possible cultivation, so as to have the farms extraordinarily neat, but merely so far as advantage goes.

What do you imagine it is that prevents them from employing that quantity that would be advantageous to them?—Want of capital with regard to some of them.

When you say want of capital, do you mean original want of capital, or want of capital created by the price of produce?—I mean original capital; and I will state why. I know from experience that it is so much the case with every farmer in taking a farm, that if he has got capital for 100 acres, he wants 150, and perhaps will not be satisfied unless he has 200 acres; and the consequence is, he is always behind, and he gets poorer.

So that your notion is, that if a person took a farm in proportion to the capital he actually has, he would be able to employ a greater proportion of labour upon the farm?—It is.

Do you know any person in the neighbourhood who has sufficient capital for the management of his farm?—Yes, I know an instance or two, certainly.

Are their farms a great deal better cultivated than the farms of which you have been speaking?—They are something better.

Have they increased their quantity of labour, or diminished it?—They have not increased their quantity of labour; I cannot say whether they have decreased.

Are their farms in as good cultivation as it appears to you they might be?—I am sure they are not.

To what do you attribute that?—In one case to the want of capital; and in some cases where they have the money, they will not spend it.

Is the price of the produce of the land sufficient to tempt them to expend more money upon its cultivation?—The present price certainly is equal to that; but as things have gone on for many years past, the uncertainty as to what price they might obtain, has been, I believe, a great check to improvements.

Since what time have the prices been such as to afford them encouragement to lay out more capital upon the land?—I cannot say the exact time. The price of last year was not complained of, but the produce was very small, owing to the badness of the season.

Are the persons of whom you have spoken persons living on their own land, or persons who hire land from Mr. Poyntz?—Some on their own, and some hiring from Mr. Poyntz.

Those that live under Mr. Poyntz, have they had their rents lowered within these few years?—No; nor they have not been advanced for many years.

Do you know any particular time at which the lands were let at their present rents?—I do not. I have not had to do with the estate more than six years.

You stated that there is a person in the parish of Farnhurst living upon his own land, who is in arrear for his Rates; has this person been farming his own land for a considerable time?—As long as I have known the neighbourhood.

To what do you attribute his not paying his Rates?—From his being poor. He employs no Labourers upon it, only two or three boys and himself; he does not employ one man constantly upon his farm; and there are several others in Farnhurst in the same way.

What sized farm is that?—I cannot say exactly; but I think 115 or 120 acres.

What sort of land is it?—It is poor; it is much like the rest of the parish; in fact the parish generally is not good; but some of it may be considered as very fair land; and if it is managed well, by being drained, and having a good deal

Mr. John Gwynne.

16 December,
1830.

Mr. John Cameron.

16 December,
1830.

of money expended upon it, it will yield a tolerable crop; but if men have it that cannot afford to do that, of course their produce is nothing.

If this land was well drained and in proper condition, what amount would you consider a fair crop of wheat upon it?—Some land will grow eight sacks with good management; but then it is after an expensive system of fallowing, and liming, and dunging. I suppose the average of the parish, at this time, would not be three sacks. It is to be considered that they are small inclosures, and surrounded with timber, which of course is very much against the corn. When you take off a wide strip all round the field, it reduces it very much indeed.

How much an acre do you suppose the land to be worth?—I suppose the land of the parish would go from 2s. 6d. to 15s.; I do not know that there is any rented so high as 15s. in the parish: but the greatest part of the cultivated land does not belong to Mr. Poyntz; there are about 1,546 acres that do not belong to Mr. Poyntz.

How many bushels of wheat does the land that lets at 15s. an acre produce?—There is one farmer in the parish that has got some property, who has been at very great expense in draining and manuring, and he manages it as well as it can possibly be managed, and he may have one or two pieces of land that may have brought him three quarters of wheat an acre.

Has that person increased or diminished the quantity of labour upon his farm within the last six years?—He has increased it.

Do you think that the increase in his crops has repaid him for the expenditure which he has laid out upon that farm in labour?—It has paid him; that is, when I say it has paid him, it has cleared him so far, because I had it from himself; and of course he expects the profit to come afterwards.

What is the rate of profit which the farmers in your country make upon their capital?—It is impossible to say; it ought to be ten per cent.; but they say they have not made any profit, because there is not sufficient quantity of corn grown upon the land. What I mean to say is this, that if there are two farmers, each of them having 100 acres, and each of them pay the same in rent and taxes, but if one of them spends more, both in manual labour and in dressing the land, than the other, he will probably get double the amount of produce that the other does, although the only difference in their expenditure is in the labour and in the dressing; and therefore he will receive a much better return than the other.

With respect to the person who told you that he had cleared himself, do you mean to say that he had made ten per cent. upon his capital?—I cannot say as to that; what he told me was, that he had cleared his expenses.

Does the farm which you occupy for Mr. Poyntz, and on which you have expended a great deal more capital than other farmers have done, return a profit of 10½ per cent.?—I cannot speak to that exactly; but my firm opinion is, that it is farmed at a profit at this time; and I can only say that the produce this last year has been more than four times what it has been in any other year that I have had to do with it.

Do you conceive that the evil of which you complain, of an adequate capital not being employed upon the land, is an evil upon the increase, or that it is diminishing?—I think it is upon the increase, certainly. It must be upon the increase, if a man begins without capital; and I am sorry to say that in cold lands it is too often the case that a man that has capital will not have it; and, therefore, if a man takes it without capital, of course his crops would get worse and worse, because it is impossible that he can do what he ought to do.

From your observation generally in farming parishes, do you conceive that in general the farming capital has gone on increasing or diminishing within these last few years?—Diminishing.

Do you conceive that if the amount paid to the Labourer from the Poor Rate, in addition to the payment that is made to him for labour now performed, were paid in the shape of payment for labour, that it would produce a profitable application of that money to the payer?—No doubt it would.

Have you ever known any parish in which the land was so well cultivated that it would not produce such a return for an additional outlay of capital?—I have never seen such land.

Suppose the produce of land to bear such a price as to make a proper return for capital, is it your opinion that the demand for agricultural labour would increase

increase to such a degree as to absorb the quantity of labour now unemployed? *Mr. John Cameron.*

—Yes, it would.

You were understood to state that the wages paid in your parish by the several occupiers are unequal; do those men who receive only 8s. per week for their labour, of similar bodily strength with others that receive 10s. have the difference made up to them from the Poor Rates?—Certainly not; that has never been the case in any parish I have had to do with.

In those parishes, if the rent of the land was reduced fifty per cent., do you conceive that that would increase the demand for labour?—I fear not much; because if the rent and the tithes were remitted to those men, I think they could not go on without something more was done for them, because they have not a shilling.

Therefore, you are of opinion that the reduction of rents would not produce a corresponding increase in the demand for labour?—I think not, generally.

Do you conceive, that if a gentleman was obliged to reduce his rents fifty per cent., he would employ as many Labourers as he does now?—He could not.

Do you know the parish of Ambersham in Hants?—Yes.

Do you find that that parish is in a better condition than the neighbouring parishes?—I think, perhaps, it is not so bad, because the number of Paupers in the parish is very small. I suppose there are not at present more than two unemployed.

Do you account for that by the distance that they have to go to a county magistrate?—No, I do not.

If the Poor Rates were less, would not the farmers be able to employ more Labourers?—No doubt they would; but what I mean to say is, that the present race of farmers could not, without having money advanced to them, do any thing to remedy their condition. Many of them who are farming upon the poor lands never had capital.

Can you state whether the County Rates have increased in your Division?—They have increased.

Have the cottagers in your parish generally got any land in their own occupation?—They have land in their own occupation, generally. A field was allotted for that purpose. Mr. Poyntz, many years ago, encouraged every industrious man, by allotting him out a piece of garden. There are not many Labourers in our parish belonging to Mr. Poyntz but what have a garden with their cottage, from a quarter of an acre to half an acre; but there are many belonging to other parties that have no garden, and to those we give a bit of garden out of this field.

Do they cultivate those gardens well?—Yes.

Do they pay their rents punctually for those gardens?—Our cottage rents are not more than from 50s. to 3l. Most of the cottagers do not pay rent for their cottages. They take turn in going out with the gamekeepers to watch, and consequently they live rent-free.

Do they keep pigs, generally?—Yes.

Do you find that that is any relief to the Poor Rate?—I cannot say that it is, because the Poor Rates are got to that state of abuse that I think nothing can be done to relieve them. I know that in our neighbourhood there has been a case in which a man that is earning 18s. a week is receiving the same allowances for his children as a man that was only receiving 9s.

Was that the result of the decision of the Vestry?—It has been the result of a magistrate's order. The man has gone to a magistrate, and complained, and the wages that he was earning were never taken into consideration accurately. I know a man, a sawyer, one of my own men, who gets 18s. or 19s. a week, and that man has had the same relief as another man that has had 9s.; and I know he is receiving the same for his children now.

Do you know on what ground that relief is ordered?—I cannot say.

Is it not in consequence of a printed paper which the magistrates signed?—I believe it was.

Have you ever complained to the Guardian of the Poor in that parish of that practice?—I have complained of it; and he said, that if they did not pay the man the sum for his children, the magistrate would order it to be paid; and they once refused in a case something like that, where a man was earning 10s. a week, and was living with his father-in-law, a man who had got a copyhold property

Mr. John Cresson.

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property worth 6*l.* or 7*l.* a year, and the daughter was his only child. This man, instantly that he had a third child, came to the parish and demanded payment for his child. I happened to be at the Vestry meeting, and I said, "Now really this is abominable; here is a man earning his 10*s.* a week; he lives in his father-in-law's house, who is also getting his 10*s.* a week." I said, "This is too bad; your father ought to assist you, and you ought to be ashamed." The Vestry backed me in it, and away the man went. Then he went to the magistrates, and they ordered him to be paid, without taking into consideration the earnings of the man.

Was there a regular order made upon the Guardian of the Poor, or did he merely submit?—I believe there was a regular order made.

Did nobody advise him to resist that order?—Not that I know of.

Did you inform Mr. Poyntz of this circumstance?—I do not know that I did; it happened very recently.

Was it since the disturbances?—I think it was about the time of the disturbances.

Do you know whether the Paupers in the United Workhouse are employed upon any work?—I do not know whether there is any manufactory carried on there now. I believe some of them are employed upon a farm which the Poor-house farmer has three miles off.

Have instances of excessive relief, similar to that which you have stated, occurred frequently in your district?—They have; but I do not know that the men have had quite so much earnings as that man. There is no man in the parish, perhaps, that earns quite so much as that man and his brother, who are two sawyers.

Was the Guardian of the parish summoned before the magistrate upon that occasion?—He was.

Has Mr. Poyntz permitted a part of the waste in the parish of Midhurst to be inclosed lately by the parish?—Yes.

Is the land good or bad?—It is very bad land, as poor as possible; I am afraid it will never answer the purpose.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday the 10th of February next.

Die Jovis, 10^a Februarii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *George Wells* is called in; and Examined, as follows:

Rev. George Wells.

10 February,
1831.

WHERE do you reside?—At Weston, in the Western Division of Sussex, on the borders of the Weald, near Steyning.

Are you the clergyman of the parish?—I am.

Have you turned your attention to the administration of the Poor Laws in your parish?—I have so far considered them as I have had an opportunity of being conversant with the subject; but I should state to your Lordships, that my parish is one of a number incorporated under Mr. Gillett's Act.

Are you a Guardian?—No; I have no province in the parish but that of Minister.

How many parishes are incorporated?—Six.

Are you a magistrate?—No.

Can you state to the Committee the extent of the incorporated district in which your parish is situate?—Not with any accuracy; the parishes are of a moderate size, and I am not aware of the population.

Can you speak to the extent of the population of your particular parish?—We have no accurate ascertainment of that; but I should conjecture my parish to be from 1,700 acres to 2,000; we have a great extent of Down.

What is the population?—The last Census was somewhat less than 300.

Has

Has not the population increased during the last few years?—Not very materially; to a certain extent; there may be 20 or 30 more.

Upon what valuation is your parish rated?—A valuation fixed by the farmers themselves some 30 years back, probably, or more.

At a full rack rent?—No.

At what proportion of rack rent?—I conceive the proportion to be now about two-thirds or three-fifths.

Do you mean of the present rents?—The present rents have become so alterable and altered, I can hardly speak of them with any precision; I should apprehend that they approach much more than I have stated to the present year's rents.

At how much in the pound?—Ten shillings in the pound was the last year's upon the rated rent.

Can you state what the Poor Rates were at the time of the last Census in 1821?—I could not without a reference.

Have the Poor Rates materially increased within the last few years?—Yes, certainly.

Has the distress of the Poor also increased, or has it diminished?—In my parish there has been, I think, no great increase of distress; but it is particularly circumstanced in that respect; there is the residence of a very affluent family, which has distributed largely, and employed very largely the greater part of our Poor.

To what circumstances, then, do you attribute the increase of the Poor Rates?—The general increase, I think, has followed the course of the country, if I may so speak; there has been an increase *ad valorem*, if I may use that expression, according to the value of the rental. Perhaps, if we were to go to amount, we might not find it so; but when I speak of the increase of Poor Rates, I speak of it with reference to the value of land.

What is the common price of labour in your parish?—The price of labour at this moment is 12s. a week; but it has been 10s. till of late. I speak of able-bodied Labourers.

Is there any allowance in aid of wages made to able-bodied Labourers out of the Rates?—I think not in my parish, to any extent. I cannot say but at times an Overseer may have made something of a bargain, and certain persons may have some advantages without my privity; but in a general way it is discountenanced.

Is there any scale according to the number of children?—I believe the magistrates have adopted a scale at their sittings, but I hardly know how far in my own parish we have abided by it, because we have a great deal of casual and adventitious relief; but I think there is 1s. 6d. per head beyond two children, and that the farmers in the neighbouring town of Steyning have said that they will give 1s. 6d. a head for every child as soon as it was born, in addition to the accustomed wages of the country.

Is there a scale of pay in proportion to the children adopted in the neighbouring parishes?—I think it is, with some variations. I do not apprehend that an allowance on the scale which the magistrates adopt when called upon for relief has been so generally dispensed as it might seem to be under any fixed regulation, because parish officers have taken the means of satisfying the people without their going to that resort. I apprehend that the rule of the magistrates would be to give that 1s. 6d. after two children, according to previous custom; but I must beg to be understood as speaking without certainty upon that subject.

Do you know the situation of the neighbouring parishes?—Rather from general observation than from any particular knowledge I may have.

Are you not an occupier of land?—I am.

How many acres do you occupy?—I believe I may have in occupation at this moment about 200 acres, besides Down. I would beg leave to state, lest as a clergyman I may be considered as being improperly circumstanced, that I am acting for my neighbour, Mrs. Goring, the widow of my late friend and patron; and, in consequence of that, I have at this moment become occupier of an additional quantity of land for which she had no tenant, and appointed a person who may be considered my superintendent to take charge of it.

Is it arable land?—Partly; a fair proportion of both arable and pasture; the pasture, perhaps, rather exceeds the arable in proportion.

How many Labourers do you employ upon that farm during the winter months?

Rev. George Wells.

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months?—I believe at present I have seven men and four boys, and occasionally women.

Is that in the parish of which you are the Minister?—No; it is in the parishes of Washington and Ashington.

Are there many people out of employ in that parish?—No.

There were not previously to the late disturbances?—No. There were some persons employed upon work that was necessarily found for them by the parish and by the farmers; I believe there are still a few so employed.

What was it?—Chiefly digging sand, stone, or grubbing stems of trees.

Could you employ more than seven men profitably on the land you rent to Mrs. Goring, in Washington, in the winter time?—No; I believe I have an extreme number. We have a gradation of prices according to ability.

Do you make any difference in the wages you give to a married or a single man?—I do not.

Is it the general practice to make a difference?—It has hitherto been. I am told they have now changed that practice; at least they professed to do so; but I am afraid that will not be permanent.

Do you not believe that the practice which exists in some parts of the county of Sussex, of making a difference between the wages they give the married and unmarried men, leads to improvident marriages?—Certainly, I should suppose so; I am convinced it has done it in many cases.

Do you conceive there are more people in your parish than could be profitably employed in the winter?—I think not, provided the means were in the possession of the tenant to pay them.

The tenants are not in a very good condition in that part of Sussex, are they?—Those that are in that part called the Weald are certainly in a very low condition; I think the rest are pretty well off.

Have they had their rents reduced within the last six or eight years?—In the part of which I have a partial charge they have.

Is it the custom in that part of the country to let cottages with the farms?—Yes, it is generally, I think.

Do you know that when the tenants receive reductions from their landlords, they make any deduction to the Labourer for his cottage?—None, I believe.

Do you know the general rent of the cottages to the landlord?—From four to five pounds, I think.

Have they gardens attached to them?—Generally speaking.

Are they small or large gardens?—I cannot state the quantity, but I should consider them as small gardens.

Do they consist of a quarter of an acre?—No, certainly not.

Do you not conceive it would be a great advantage to a Labourer to have half an acre of land attached to his cottage?—I think that amount would be rather too high.

Do you think a certain quantity of land would be of great importance to a Labourer?—I think so.

Would not the Labourer be very glad to have it?—I think so. In my own parish they have, for the last year, for an experiment, each had half a rood of land—the eighth of an acre.

Can you state the particulars of that plan?—We gave out to our parishioners, that those who chose to apply would probably be permitted to take such portion of the land which was then in the occupation of the proprietor; upon which they did apply, and they had such portions of land respectively allotted, which they have cultivated to very great advantage, I believe. I understand they are grateful for the use of it, and that they find a great benefit in the result. It was chiefly planted with potatoes; and that with good husbandry, I am told, produces forty bushels for that quantity of land. I should suppose thirty bushels might be considered as a medium crop. It is poor land.

What manure did they get for this land?—They brought very little manure upon it, for though it was a poor soil naturally, yet in very good condition for the quality of that soil, having been just separated from the demesne land, which had been extremely well cultivated, so that they had the whole benefit; with very little expense.

Do you conceive they will be able, if they give up that land in two years time, to leave it in as good condition as they took it?—I conceive not, from the locality of it; we are endeavouring to put them into a better situation as to vicinity.

At

At what distance is it from the cottages?—Our cottages are very much scattered; some of them are half a mile off, and some of them a quarter of a mile; some of them come even two miles for it.

Do not you consider that it would be very advisable that land should be given as near the cottages as possible?—Certainly.

Do those Labourers keep pigs?—Yes, generally.

Do you conceive they will get manure enough to be able to manure as they ought to do a quarter of an acre or half an acre from their pigs?—I should rather doubt half an acre; but the proportion of land I have spoken of they could. If it was close to the cottage, it would make a great difference. There is what is called the Slut's Dunghill in vulgar language, which is frequently thrown away; the refuse of the house.

How do they cultivate that land?—By the spade; it had been once ploughed.

Do they pay any rent for it?—Yes.

What rent?—At the rate of 2*l*. an acre; of course no Rates, or tithes, or other charges.

Is that above the customary rate of land?—It was considered about a fair rental; the land might be worth about 20*s*. an acre if the tenants had taken it with all its charges, and without having it ploughed for them.

Are they not grateful for being allowed to rent this land?—Yes; they were very much pleased with it.

Was your parish one of the disturbed parishes?—No; we had no disturbances.

What do you find the real effect of having an allotment of land to be on the Labourer?—I conceive it has a very beneficial influence in giving him a sort of attachment to his home and his superiors, which in consequence occasions their proper hold on him; I mean that influence over him which originates from the tenure: and I think also that the employment which it furnishes for his leisure hours has a beneficial effect, and the enabling him to live more comfortably through the winter by means of his potato crop, which was a new thing in Sussex. It has introduced, I hope, a more serviceable mode of disposing of the week's wages upon articles that were essential to their comfort.

Do you find the habits of the men more domestic?—I consider them better men for it altogether; but it is still a very imperfect trial.

What is your opinion of the condition of the Poor in your immediate neighbourhood?—Their condition I should consider generally below its proper level in point of employment; such employment as would pay the employer.

To what cause do you attribute that circumstance?—I think there are two causes; the surplussage of such labour, and the deficiency of funds necessary to pay for it.

Is it not your opinion, that if labour could be profitably employed, those funds would be found?—It would seem a natural consequence, but I am afraid there is a very great defalcation of agricultural capital amongst that class of farmers who occupy the Weald farms of the county of Sussex.

Is it your opinion that those persons were induced by the high prices at the time of the war to engage in the occupation of land with inadequate capital?—Since I have known it, their capital has been inadequate, with the exception probably of the time when very high prices prevailed during the war, when the year's returns enabled them to meet the year's expenses; but I think in very few cases had they any accumulated capital which enabled them to stand bad seasons.

In those instances which have occurred within your knowledge of persons occupying land or hiring land with a sufficiency of capital, do you find the same degree of distress that you do in the other instances you have referred to?—I should say not the same degree, but I see a great degree of distress; of course the greater the capital the greater the means of standing the difficulties of the times; but I think that all the capitals of our second class of farmers are exceedingly diminished.

About what extent of occupation should you call the second rate of farmers?—In the way I meant it I should apply that term to farmers of 100*l*. a year rental, and under, if I divide them into two classes only.

Would that answer to about 100 acres?—They must have more than 100 acres for 100*l*. a year.

Rev. George Wallis.

10 February,
1831.

Have the goodness to inform the Committee your opinion of the quality of the land you refer to?—It is a stiff intractable sour clay, very expensive to cultivate, and with very little prospect of good crops; the seasons operate so much against it, if there is extreme wetness particularly; but even drought operates against it; it becomes baked like a brick, or becomes intractable when wet.

It is a great deal more liable to the influence of weather than other soils?—Yes, certainly.

Are you aware of the average produce per acre?—I am told that half a load, or five sacks per acre, is about the average; that is 20 bushels.

Do you mean 20 bushels per acre if well farmed, or as they farm it now?—As they farm it now, if the season is not unfavourable; but as the seasons have been of late, still less.

You have said it was your opinion that there were two causes for the distress, one the surplusage of labour, the other the want of capital on the part of the second class of farmers. Have you turned your attention at all to the remedy that it would be expedient to apply to meet these evils?—In a vague way I have thought that the location or transplanting of people from those sour soils, if it could be done, to those that would carry the population, and render their labour profitable, would be advantageous.

Do you mean in this country or abroad?—I should conceive there were many tracts in this country where it would be a very great resource, if they could be brought under the culture of those supernumerary hands.

Is it your opinion that there would be a disposition among the labouring classes in your neighbourhood to avail themselves of any such offer?—To foreign emigration there appears a disinclination; I apprehend there would not be to home colonization, if I may use such a term.

Where would you propose to send them to for home colonization? what places could you find where they could be located with advantage?—Looking to my own neighbourhood, I can see large tracts of country that appear to me capable of employing human labour, and making a return.

In what part?—Sussex.

Is not that land of precisely the same description as that from which you would remove them?—No; it is a sandy soil.

Can you name any place?—I could name the next parish to my own, Washington.

They have never tried to cultivate that?—No, they have not tried to cultivate it; it is bound up by the tenure between the lord of the manor and copyholder.

You conceive that the tenure by which the land is held prevents the cultivation of that land in a proper manner?—I apprehend so, as to prevent the appropriation of it in a profitable manner; it still remains in common.

You have said that there is a great degree of distress amongst all farmers, and that their capital is diminished; can you account for the diminution of capital among farmers?—Unproductive seasons and low prices.

These two causes, in your opinion, have so diminished the capital as not to leave the farmer the power of employing sufficient labour?—That is my opinion.

How do you account for the Poor's Rate in your parish being so high as 10s. in the pound, where there is a family which employs the superabundant labour?—We have the House of Industry, to which we pay to a large extent.

It is the poverty or mismanagement of the other parishes which occasions that?—It is ours being combined in the expenses of other parishes. It is very much the constitution of the House, and the whole of the appendages, in consequence of which the system of this Poorhouse is expensive.

Can you state the objections there are to the constitution of this House which produce these mischiefs?—The legal constitution of the House is departed from in some important instances under Mr. Gilbert's Act.

Can you specify in what particulars there has been a departure from the provisions of Mr. Gilbert's Act?—I am speaking from my recollection; I think that Act prescribes that the Poor in it shall not be farmed by the Guardians.

Are you certain that in that Act the Guardians are not authorized to farm the Poor?—I am not absolutely certain of that, but I speak from the best recollection I have.

You say that the rents in this parish are reduced; from what period are you speaking?—I am not acquainted with any other rentals than those which appear to have fallen in some measure under my own cognizance, which are those of the Goring Estate. I apprehend there it has been done more in the way of occasional throwback or occasional reduction, except to new tenants.

Instead of altering the contract, they have thrown back a part of that they were entitled to?—Yes.

What has been the amount of that throwback?—It has varied according to circumstances. In some cases we have thrown back at the rate of twenty per cent.; in some cases, I presume, thirty per cent.

When were the contracts made reserving those rents from which you have thrown back twenty and thirty per cent.?—To the best of my recollection they were made about the time of the cessation of the last war, about 1815. There was then a difference made in the rentals. The fact is, that the proprietor had very few leases; there was either a verbal understanding between him and his tenants, or a written memorandum; a sort of good faith subsisting between them. There has been no standard; it has been in the breast of the proprietor in dealing individually with each tenant.

Do you mean that twenty and thirty per cent. have been returned of the rents fixed since the last war?—Yes.

And still the farmer is distressed?—I must beg to be speaking in that respect as having no precise cognizance at that period; but that is my impression.

You cultivate about 800 acres of Mrs. Goring's Estate?—Yes.

Do you pay any rent for it?—Yes, I do. I took part of it into my hands to relieve her from the occupation, as having a man well qualified to manage it.

According to the price of produce antecedent to the present year, did that enable you to make the rent you stipulated to pay from the management of that farm?—The small farm which was previously in my own occupation, I think, during ten years has left me a loser.

When was the rent fixed?—In the year 1821. I am not that sort of farmer who probably would have made the best profit of it, for my expenses have been great in consequence of my wish to employ people.

Do not you think the greatness of your expenses has produced a corresponding increase of produce?—Not adequate.

Do you think farmers in general employ as much labour as they ought to employ in the cultivation of their farms at present?—No, I think not.

That you attribute to their distress?—Yes.

Is there not, on that account, a considerable diminution in the produce of those farms?—Undoubtedly the farms are less productive.

What is the state of the other parishes, which have not the advantages of a resident country gentleman, with respect to the quantity of Labourers; is there more or less than they have occasion for?—There are many more than their means enable them to employ.

Do you know whether those parishes are differently circumstanced now from what they were formerly?—Certainly.

Were there more Labourers employed to cultivate the same land than now?—I think so.

You say that the Poor's Rates have increased; when you first became acquainted with this parish, what was the amount paid in Poor's Rates in your parish?—I cannot state that, for I have a composition which exempts me; and I have had no knowledge of it till difficult times came, and we were induced to look into it.

Have you the means of knowing whether they have considerably increased?—I think, according to the value of the rental of the occupation, they have increased; I do not know that they have nominally increased in money, because the land has gone down. There has been inability to pay the same Rates, and there has been a real advance of Rates upon the value.

The proportion of Rate has increased, but the proportion of money paid for Rate has not increased, in consequence of the diminution of the value of land?—I think not, but my information is extremely limited upon that point.

Are you aware what the wages of Labourers were in your neighbourhood before the late disturbances?—The best price of labour was 10s.; and from that it descended to 9s., 8s., 7s., 6s., and 4s. to men who were a dead weight upon the parishes, and paid out of the parish purse to do some work or other;

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chiefly those were young or unmarried men, for they kept up the wages of the married men to exonerate their Rate.

Upon what work were they chiefly employed when paid at 4s. a week?—On the road work; the preparing stones—digging stones.

In point of fact, unprofitable work, producing no return?—Producing no adequate return, certainly.

Is it your opinion that the wages which you now state to be given, namely, 12s. a week, can be continued, or is it likely to be continued?—On the poorer soils I should think not.

Have any, in fact, very recently returned to the low rate of payment?—I know nothing personally myself upon that subject, but I have heard that they are sinking in the poorer districts of our country.

You stated that you thought the locating the Poor upon waste lands would be a remedy for the evils at present prevailing; do you mean by that, that the removal of the superabundant population from the parishes would enable the farmer to employ more freely those who remained, and pay them better wages, if relieved from the charge of those who are now superabundant?—Yes, that is my meaning.

Are you aware what the cost of maintenance per head is in the Poorhouse with which you are connected?—I am not sure whether the price has been raised lately, as corn has risen, but I think we paid, at least my Guardian paid, 3s. 8d. per head to the Governor, he having the profit of their labour and various advantages; he has three acres of land, I think, allotted to his house.

Are you aware that there is any Act of Parliament which authorizes the Governor of a Poorhouse to be paid any thing?—No, I am not.

Do you think any man would accept the office of Governor of a Poorhouse, unless he had some profit on the Poor being farmed?—I do not know what the Act provides with regard to the payment of the Governor, but, upon a former occasion, finding that they were farmed and very miserably provided for, I then referred to the Act, and found that the Governor was not suffered to farm, and to provide for the Poor by the Act of Parliament. That was what I meant, and it was the province of the Guardians to see to that, independent of the Governor.

Is there a Visitor appointed to the Poorhouse you mention?—Yes.

Who is the Visitor?—He is a farmer also.

Have you ever applied to that Visitor, stating to him your objections to this plan?—I have objected generally to the mode of subsisting them at times.

Are you not aware that one of the beneficial consequences of having parishes united, is the appointment of a Visitor?—I should think so, certainly.

Are you aware that magistrates, in general, decline to order any relief to a Pauper unless he has applied first to the Guardian of his parish, and if refused by him, to the Visitor?—Yes, I believe it is so.

Do you not think that it is beneficial for men to have the power of applying to the Visitor, without having constantly to go to a magistrate?—It has not been so practically in cases I am acquainted with.

In what way is the arrangement made for the parish payments to this united House?—There is a proportion of payment for each parish, according to the number of inmates placed by that parish in the House; the parishes also engage to pay the Governor so much by contract for a certain number of inmates, whether they be there or not.

Is the liability of each parish to pay, regulated by the value of the parish or the number each sends to the House?—I believe it is according to the number; the parish undertaking for the maintenance of the Poor in that House, for whom they will be answerable whether they are placed in that House or not.

It is an original agreement, made on the union of parishes taking place?—It has been an agreement varied at times according to circumstances. In my own parish we had, I believe, eleven, and we complained of being compelled to pay for eleven, when we never wanted to place eleven there. The number we have to pay for has been reduced, I think, from eleven to nine.

Has that been by an arrangement between the parishes, or do you claim that as matter of right?—By arrangement between the parishes. It was found we did not want, collectively, to place so many men in the House. There was a reduction made proportionably in the different parishes for the number they should place there or pay for.

Was

Was that reduction made on a general average, or on complaints from the different parishes?—I conceive it was made on a general average, and that they pay according to the respective proportions of the several parishes; but I have not entered into that.

What effect do you find produced on the Poor in consequence of their being liable to be sent to this Workhouse?—I think they are content to be put to harder shifts; that they will bear more pressure rather than take the alternative of sending their children or going themselves.

What is the habit which prevails with respect to the particular persons the parish send, whether dissolute persons, or heads of families, or old people, or children?—They send all descriptions of persons who happen to fall on their hands, unprovided for in dwelling or the means of accommodation, and children of numerous families, as well as the aged and decrepit people. I am afraid they send very improper persons; they put hale young men into the House occasionally.

Is the person who farms the Poor appointed by the Magistrate as Governor of the Poorhouse?—I really do not know whether that name be specifically given him or not.

Has not the sending of hale young men into the House had the effect of inducing those hale young men to become married men?—No, I think not.

What is the difference of expense those young men would be to the parish if maintained at home, from that they are put to by their being sent to this House?—I conclude the expense saved to the parish is, that they are obliged to pay by their contract for a certain number, whether they are there or not; the consequence is, that they send persons to fill up the vacancies to the amount.

How is the Workhouse liked in general by the persons entitled to receive from Poor Rates in that parish?—They are not dissatisfied with the treatment they receive there, but many have a great aversion to going there.

Have they any labour provided?—I think the manufacture has ceased, though it may be carried on occasionally, of making cloth for horse collars, or coarse woollen manufactures, or sacking.

Supposing the Workhouse had never been established, do you think, from the experience the parish has had of the Workhouse, they would now establish it?—I think not; indeed some parishes would be happy to make their escape from it.

Do you not think it has a very beneficial effect, by making a man exert himself to keep himself without going on the parish for relief?—No doubt, in some cases.

Do you not think that the dislike of persons to go into that House has that effect?—In some measure it has.

Do you think the parish could maintain the Paupers as well out of the House, for the price, as they do in the House?—If I take the whole amount of the payments, I should say they could, because it is not merely the 5s. 8d. per week, but the original expense of that House, and the debentures upon that House, and various allowances; besides, I do not know exactly what they are, but the Master has certain allowances; and altogether I remember considering it as amounting to 5s. or 6s. per head, taking the aggregate in its proportionate parts.

Upon your parish, or the whole?—Certainly upon my parish, and I question whether it is not so upon the whole.

Do the Guardians meet there regularly?—Yes; once a month.

Does the Visitor ever go to that Poorhouse?—Sometimes.

Does the clergyman attend that Poorhouse?—Yes.

Constantly?—One or other of the clergy of the respective parishes is frequently there.

Do the clergymen of the respective parishes consider it their duty to visit that Poorhouse?—I consider it mine, and my neighbours have the same feeling.

How many does the House contain?—I think the six parishes pay for about eighty, whether there or not.

Is this Poorhouse in the neighbourhood of a church?—I should think it is a mile from the nearest church.

Do the Paupers go to church on Sunday, or is Divine Service read in the Poorhouse?—Those that can, go to church. In regard to this House, the clergy in the neighbouring parishes have subscribed, in addition to something which

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was obtained from the Guardians, for the maintenance of a schoolmaster, and he is employed to read prayers in that House every evening, and on the Sunday to read prayers, and also to read a sermon to them.

Do you not consider it an advantage to the children sent into that House, the moral education they receive?—I think the children are decidedly better taught in that House than they are generally in their houses at home.

You do not consider that the practice of that Poorhouse demoralizes the people?—Under the present Master it does not.

Do you not believe that when relief is given to the Poor out of the Poorhouse, that relief is often squandered in drink, instead of going to the relief of their families?—I have had no experience of that. The objections I had myself formed to the poorhouse arose from the indiscriminate admixture of persons of all descriptions,—dissolute, depraved, hale and weak, old and young, thrown together there under the same species of management; and the advantages taken by parishes of putting, as I conceive, very improper persons there; and idle habits being formed from the want of sufficient employ; and at one time very improper connections being formed between young men and young women, and very bad consequences followed.

Are you not aware that there is a clause in that Act which specifies what description of persons may be sent to the Poorhouse?—Yes.

The clause runs thus: "And to render the provisions of this Act more practicable and beneficial, be it further Enacted, That no person shall be sent to such Poorhouse or Houses except such as are become indigent by old age, sickness or infirmities, and are unable to acquire a maintenance by their labour; and except such orphan children as shall be sent thither by order of the Guardian or Guardians of the Poor, with the approbation of the Visitor; and except such children as shall necessarily go with their mothers thither for sustenance." The objection you have made to the Poorhouse, in point of fact, is that they do not abide by Mr. Gilbert's Act?—Yes.

Do you think that if a Poorhouse was established, and the Act of Parliament alluded to was strictly enforced, it would not benefit the people of the country?—I think if all the enactments of the Statute were duly enforced, they might be a benefit.

You speak of the school in the Workhouse; is there as good schooling to be obtained by the children in the six parishes?—I should suppose there was not; in my own, I hope, they would be better taught; there is a good patroness there.

Have the goodness to name the five other parishes united with your's?—Washington, Sullington, Thakebam, Findon and Ashington.

How many children are there usually in the Workhouse?—There are, sometimes, perhaps forty, and sometimes but twenty; it depends upon the season of the year, and the means the parents have to keep them out.

Who conducts the education of the children there?—The schoolmaster.

By whom is he provided and paid?—He is paid jointly by a private subscription, and an allowance made by the Guardians.

For what period and to what age are the children who are sent there kept?—I hardly know how to state any rule; they are generally taken out by the time they are capable of work; say ten or twelve years of age.

At what age are they put in?—From an infantine age to the age of ten or more.

It so happens, you say, there is a good schoolmaster in the Workhouse?—There is at this time.

Has that been the case for some years?—It has been so for about the last ten years, during which that man has been employed.

Is there any waste land surrounding this House?—It is bordered by waste land.

Do you know that there is a power in the Act to the Guardians to hire waste land?—Yes, I believe there is.

Has there been an attempt to hire that land?—No more than was allotted to the House.

Would it not be beneficial to hire that land, and cultivate it with the spade?—It is a very poor country; it is an iron sand. I am not aware whether the greater part has not been thrown into severalty of late; on reflection, I believe that is the case.

You mean that it has become private property?—Yes, inclosed.

Is it your opinion that the land which you deem incapable of profitable cultivation on a large scale by the farmers might be cultivated to the profit of the

the poor man in very small quantities, with the benefit of the manure that he could afford to put upon it, it being adjoining to his cottage?—That is my opinion, but only at a small distance from the cottage, if it did not attach.

What is the usual rate of cottages in your neighbourhood?—Generally from 4*l*. to 5*l*.; it may go so low as 3*l*.

Has there been any difference in the habit of the farmers as to employing Labourers being servants, instead of employing Labourers who live in cottages?—I think their distress and cheapness of provisions have induced them to take more house servants into their employ, rather than the parishioners living in their own houses, for farming servants.

Within what period have you made that observation?—For ten years past it has been an increasing practice, I think.

Do not you conceive that it is likely to be conducive to their behaving more orderly, and the parish being less likely to be burdened with improvident marriages, than if the servants were hired from cottages?—I think it is; I think it is a beneficial management.

Those are mostly young men of their own parish they engage in that way, are they not?—That is not at all universally the case; they find a cheap servant who will take the lowest wages; they do not at all abide by his being a settled parishioner.

What do they pay to the servants who lodge in their houses?—I really cannot state that; it has been a decreasing ratio of payment. I have not had any particular reason to ascertain the fact. If I were to give a random guess, I should say 3*l*. or 4*l*. for the half year; but it is but a guess.

Does it appear that the people of the parish are rather unwilling to engage themselves in that way?—No. The farmer of course goes to the cheapest market for his labour in that capacity; and it may be, in a small parish like mine, that there are not a great number of young men so circumstanced as to become house servants.

The people of the neighbourhood, generally, have no disinclination to such hiring?—No; I conceive it is considered rather an advantageous hiring.

Do they become parishioners?—I believe that is generally avoided by the mode of hiring; they usually hire them by the half year, and dissolve the engagements. There is very great care taken not to multiply the parish burdens by those engagements.

Are there any instances in your neighbourhood of married men being engaged by the six months, or are they always paid by the week?—I think they are usually engaged by the week.

Have you contemplated any possible improvement in the Law of Settlement?—No, I have not any practicable improvement to suggest; but if settlements were not formed by hirings, I should consider that would put an end to a great deal of difficulty in hiring, and of objection to hiring.

Have you been long resident in the parish of which you are the clergyman?—Thirty years.

Have you, during the whole of that time, had opportunities of inquiring into the mode of living and the condition of the Poor?—It has passed under my observation.

Has it appeared to you, that of late years there has been any material difference in their mode of living?—I think there has been a deterioration of their condition, generally speaking; how far they have altered their diet I hardly know; I am afraid that is the last thing they will alter.

In your opinion, has their diet become more refined than it was?—No, I think it has not; the people of Sussex have always lived on a superior diet to those of the western and northern counties.

Do you recollect what the wages were in former years?—The wages during the high prices occasioned by the war were 15*s*. a week for best Labourers in the summer.

What in the winter?—Twelve shillings.

Did the price of wages at that period bear the same relation to the price of provisions in the high times, as it does at the present moment?—That would require a calculation into which I have not entered; but the price paid must have borne a greater proportion to the rate of wages at that period, certainly.

Is it your opinion, that a Labourer during the war, when corn was selling at a high price, was in a better or worse condition than he is at present?—I think he was in a better condition than he is at present.

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Though he paid so much more for his food?—Yes.

Have not the prices of other articles fallen also since that period?—Yes.

Do you suppose that 15s. a week during the time of high prices, would go as far as 10s. a week would now?—I am not sufficiently versed in the subject to say that exactly.

Is it the habit of the farmers in your neighbourhood, to supply their Labourers with corn at a reduced price?—No, it is not; but during the very high price, I believe that did prevail to a certain extent.

That was in addition to the wages of 15s. a week?—Probably as family relief, I should think, to men who had large depending families; they might give relief to families by selling them corn at a lower price.

Do you think that was the practice in your neighbourhood?—Not so much as I have known it in other neighbourhoods.

There is only one mode of accounting for the increased distress of the Labourer, as compared with his condition when the price of corn was so high; namely, that the population has increased, and that it has now become superabundant?—Certainly, very much above the demand for it.

That is the solution of the anomaly, which appears from the statement you have just given?—That is the solution, I think, that most readily accounts for it; but I have not entered into subjects of this nature, with any view to ascertain points of this description; all I can speak to is, that of observing the state of persons around me,—that they have been in a worse condition during the depression of wages, than they have been during high wages. But there were many concurrent causes; all were then employed; there was not a person in the family capable of work that was not employed; probably there was a general diffusion of the benefit through the families, which is not now provided.

There were means for the wives and children obtaining something?—Yes; every one capable of gaining something was in the way of doing it.

Where a good Labourer is paid the regular price for his wages, and is in full work, is he not now as well off as ever he was?—I conceive that the individual Labourer is.

When you speak of the distress of the Poor, does not that arise rather from the want of employment than the inadequacy of payment to those who are employed?—At this moment it does.

Are the Poor Rates higher now, or lower, than they were at the time you are alluding to of high prices?—I think I answered that question to this effect, that *ad valorem*, according to the price of the Returns, they are much higher, but perhaps they are not nominally higher, because the produce of the land is less valuable; the amount in my own parish was higher last year, from casual circumstances, than I have ever known it; but I do not consider that as a rule.

Have you had any beer shops set up in your neighbourhood since the late Act?—Yes.

Have you observed the effect these have produced upon the morals and habits of the Poor?—I have not had frequent occasions to observe it with that view. In my parish, I am happy to say, there is not one; but I do hear from the neighbouring farmers they consider it a most pernicious mode of licensing, and producing a great deal of drunkenness, riot and mischief.

Have the rents of cottages fallen since the high times, or have they kept up as high as they were?—I think the rents of cottages have kept up; there is a great deficiency of cottage-room.

Are the cottages rated?—In some parishes they are; viz. those inhabited by persons who are not parishioners.

Are the cottages generally under the principal landlords, or under the farmers?—Generally under the principal landlords, where there has been no division of property.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Martii, 15^o Februarii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Richard Mackenzie Bacon, Esq. is called in; and Examined as follows:

HAVE you turned your attention to the subject of the distress of agricultural labourers, and the poor in general?—I have.

How long is it since you took up the subject?—About the year 1816; the question of the distress then called my attention, and I took it up generally.

Did you then consider that distress temporary or permanent?—Permanent.

To what causes did you attribute it?—I attributed it to increase of population and to scientific power, which must, at every step, throw more labourers, by shortening processes, out of employment.

You considered that we had a redundant population?—I consider the word redundant to be merely relative. I look upon population to be redundant only as it is confined; redundant population appears to me of the same nature as redundant produce. I will state a case. Suppose a village to contain a certain number of labourers and a certain number of persons engaged in trade, so long as the relative proportions of each remain, and as the quantity of food raised is equal to the subsistence of the parties, so long they will interchange their labour; but if labourers in agriculture produce a certain number of children, there will be no demand for their labour; the consequence will be, that the population, in so far as that space is concerned, will be found redundant; but that is a mere artificial arrangement; because, if you enlarge the space, the same opportunity as previously existed for the employment of the people will re-appear.

How would you propose to remedy the evil?—I should propose to remedy it by increasing the field for labour; for instance, I consider the process of harter to begin by exchange of an article produced, and that it goes on subsequently by exchange of the surplus, so that, in point of fact, demand is made by supply. No man thinks of demanding an article till he has something to give in exchange. When a man in the beginning of society raises more than he can consume, he offers that surplus in exchange for something else that he wants; and therefore, in point of fact, supply and demand are reciprocal agents.

Do you conceive that in this country the supply of production, as well as of capital and labour, is so abundant as to reduce the price below the cost of producing it?—That never can permanently be the case, for capital and labour would both go out of employment in any particular branch which did not repay the cost of production; but amongst agriculturists it has been particularly and expressly stated that production does not remunerate the farmer; that has been the great complaint at various periods since the year 1816; therefore it is to be assumed perhaps, to a certain degree, as a fact, that agriculture has not given that remuneration to the employment of capital which other professions have given.

How would your theory operate in a case like our own, where the supply of production, as well as the capital and labour, is so abundant as to reduce the price below the cost of producing it?—I conceive this to be founded upon an error. If you keep a great quantity of the population at the minimum of subsistence, and if at the same time you keep them idle, you prevent their producing any article which they can exchange for other productions, and at the same time you abstract just so much as their subsistence costs from the earnings of others, and by that means you saddle the real production of the country with the food of the idle labourers, so that all the poor rate, in point of fact, is a total abstraction from the production of others; at the same time that you reduce all those who subsist as paupers to the very minimum of subsistence, and prevent them at the same time from producing that which would give employment to the labours of others.

You assume that the employment of the idle on the soil would add to production, and decrease wages; how has it happened that owners and occupiers of land have not done that?—I must extend the terms of the first proposition, namely, to the employment of the idle on waste land. I apprehend from the practice, that it is a universal admission no more labourers can be profitably employed on land

*Richard M. Bacon,
Esq.*

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Richard M. Bence,
Esq.
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under cultivation; then it follows, that if a farmer having all the great expenses as they now stand, that is to say, if he pays rent, tithes, manure, and tradesmen's bills, and if the fair employment of labour would add to his production, of course if that production exceeded in any degree the sum beyond the mere payment of labour, all the other expenses being the same, it would profit him to employ that labour. But it seems to go against the universal judgment to state that labour can be profitably employed, when one single article should forbid its employment to any considerable extent. Another reason now generally assigned is, that the farmers want capital, and therefore are not able to employ the labourers; but when we consider the mere difference between his sustenance as a pauper, and employing him, is the whole difference, this is so inconsiderable that any man who saw a profit in employing labour would hardly fail in procuring so small an addition to his capital. To go a little further into particulars, the labour of the whole farm is rated at about the rent; that is, one man to twenty-five acres of land or thirty acres of land is about a quantum sufficient; if you add one man to a farm, that is so very inconsiderable a portion that it is hardly to be conceived a farmer would feel the change if he could add ereo a hushel to the produce beyond that change; now when we see that such is universally not the case, it affords a legitimate presumption that no such profit can be made.

Supposing the country were relieved from its taxation, would not the fund, if left in the hands of the farmer, be laid out in labour?—I think not; I think that the new circumstance of society, that those individual interests which were supposed by the old political economists to be able to absorb all the labour, have not that supposed force; for instance, Adam Smith contended, that to leave the employment to individuals, that is, to individual interest, would be sure to carry on every thing to the best possible advantage; but we see that such is not the case. There is a perpetually increasing addition to the quantum of labour which individual interests do not absorb. All sums, however they accrue, must be laid out in labour, because all accumulations are laid out in labour; but it would not now benefit the labourer, because the competition is so great that when two labourers appear, if a farmer wants only one, he necessarily takes the man who offers his labour for the lowest price; therefore, if any quantity of capital were put into the hands of farmers, there would be no benefit to the labourer. The great object is to decrease the competition of the labourer, and to make the labourer earn his own subsistence. Another circumstance is, that wages decline with the price of commodities. I apprehend the effect of taking off the taxes on candles, and on all the articles which are consumed by labourers, will merely give the farmer an opportunity of saying, "You can buy your subsistence for so much less, and therefore I shall pay you so much less wages." It has uniformly been the case. The moment a decline takes place in the price of corn, the farmer says, "You can now buy your wheat for so much less; I shall give you so much less wages." There is no instance within my knowledge where a decline in the price of provisions to a considerable extent has happened, that the price of wages has not gone with it.

Are the wages of labour regulated by the prices of other commodities, or are they regulated by the demand and supply?—By the operation of both. If the competition is so great as to produce what we see at present, an enormous disproportion, then it is regulated by the disproportion; in other instances, by the prices of commodities. Perhaps neither cause is equal to the effect we witness; but both causes together produce the effect.

Would not the increase of capital produce increase of employment, of trade, and profit?—Capital must always be employed; the idea that capital is unemployed must be a fallacy. Suppose the capitalist has a certain quantity of money which he does not know how to employ to better advantage than by buying into the funds, he in effect lends the money to somebody else, who employs it in some other way; therefore there can be no such thing as unemployed capital, unless it is laid up in the strong box, and that would not be done now. All the capital belonging to the country must find employment in some way or other, or be locked up, and that never happens now on any great scale.

What remedy do you propose for this difficulty?—I sometime ago published a small tract, in which I recommended the employment of the poor on the waste lands. The important problem is, either to make that land now under cultivation more productive, or to raise new productions from fresh soils; to recur, in short, to the first principles of society. You build up a demand by building up a supply

in the first instance. The plan I proposed was "to pass an act of general inclosure. Second, to vest a power in the Government, to be exercised at discretion, to purchase, at a valuation, to be made in the manner customary when private property is needed for public purposes, any portion of land now waste; and to enable Government to raise by exchequer bills or loan, the means, as occasion shall arise. Third, to enable or compel"—and I beg to explain that I think that is very important, for in all the schemes for foreign emigration an admitted difficulty is, that you cannot compel a man to emigrate—"compel parishes, where the amount of poor's rate paid to able-bodied labourers exceeds per annum, to locate a given number of all such labourers above the proportion of to acres of land in the parish. Fourth, to enable Government to advance a sum, according to the circumstances, for the location of such unemployed labourers, on the security of the poor's rates; and parishes to borrow from the Government on such security. Fifth, to enable parishes to erect cottages, buildings, &c., and to furnish seeds, utensils, and subsistence to the located man for a given time, after which such allowances shall cease. Sixth, to enable parishes to contract with the man located to pay, by certain instalments, the sum laid out in settling him; which when paid, shall be considered as the purchase-money of the land and buildings: these shall thenceforth be the property of the locater, who shall, at the time of his settlement, surrender all further claims upon the parish for himself and family, except in case of sickness or infirmity within a given period after his location." I beg to explain to the Committee that I have inserted that clause as mere matter of option; it must be always very questionable whether it is possible absolutely to abrogate poor's rates; or whether any specific clause, enabling a man to be relieved under such circumstances, can be substituted, is a matter which demands great consideration; but as all the writers on political economy, and Mr. Ricardo especially, have stated that no plan which does not contemplate the abrogation of the poor laws would meet the case, I have made it optional. "When parishes possess waste land, the location shall be thereon; but in case of not possessing such waste, the most convenient place shall be selected by the Government. Eighth, that land so purchased and inclosed shall be made, if necessary, extra-parochial, free from tithes, or subjected only to a small modus, to be imposed at a distant period. Ninth, that such land shall never, under any future contingencies, be either laid to any other estate, or subdivided, but shall always continue a single separate occupation, to be *bona fide*, inhabited by the proprietors." If I may be permitted to read a small extract from the work of a French economist, it will explain why I adopt this principle. M. Sismondi, in his "*Principes d'Economie Politique*," says, "In the German provinces of the Austrian monarchy, the contract between the lord and the peasant has been declared by the law to be irrevocable, and at the same time the greater part of the corvees have been changed into acquittances, either by a money rent, or by payments of produce which have been made perpetual. The peasant has by this means acquired the effective property of his house and land, which are only charged with a rent and with some feudal services. Moreover, in order that this class may not be ultimately oppressed or dispossessed by the rich lords who should reside amongst them, the law does not permit a gentleman to purchase any of these peasant occupations, or if he does purchase one, he is obliged to restore it on the same conditions to some other family of peasants, so that the proprietorship of the nobles does not increase, nor the agricultural population diminish. This population, in the enjoyment of abundance and security, early attained in these provinces, the limits marked out by their comfortable conditions and a good method of cultivation, but it has not overstepped them." I think that is an important circumstance to remark, because it proves that persons having a certain quantity of goods and land are more careful than those who have none; the most reckless members of society are those who care only for the day. "The parents acquainted with their resources, have been careful not to reduce themselves to indigence, or to marry more of their children than they could provide for. Men may be trusted to maintain themselves in their condition when they are able to judge of it, and depend only on themselves. The class which is always prompt to burden the state with a miserable population consist of those who depend only on their labour and the will of others, and who have not the means of judging of the chances to which their children will be exposed. The Austrian government, by thus interposing in behalf of an order which, if left to itself, would necessarily be oppressed, has compensated to the happiness of its subjects

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and its own stability the greater part of the vices of its system. In a country without liberty, where the finances have at all times been badly administered, where the wars have been perpetual and disastrous, because that obstinacy has always been accompanied with incapacity, the great mass of the population, composed almost entirely of peasants, proprietors living in comfort, has been rendered happy; and this mass of subjects feeling their own happiness and dreading every change, frustrated all the projects of revolution and conquest which have been directed against that empire." "Tenth, that Government shall retain a power to let or sell portions of the waste, with or without buildings, to proprietors or occupants, who shall themselves reside upon the soil; such portions not to exceed fifty acres. Eleventh, that when extra-parochial pauper settlements are made, they shall be so placed as to add no burdens hereafter to the parish in which they shall be situated; but any future charges to be incurred by any located person or family shall be referrible to the parish from which that family originally came. To this end it will be necessary to select the most extensive, open, and detached range of ground for the first settlements, and in some instances, perhaps, to create new boundaries and new isolated parishes. Lastly, to limit the application of land to a certain annual amount in money, or to one entire sum."

Are you aware of the objection which has been made that waste land could not be cultivated to a profit?—That objection, I conceive, arises from the expenses now attendant upon its inclosure. The proprietor must first apply for a bill, and undergo law expenses; he must then pare, burn, and lay out capital on this waste land, as if it were an ordinary occupation: but my proposition goes to this, you have a pauper whom you must and do now maintain; you have land which produces nothing, but put him upon that land, place a spade and a bushel of seed by his side, and in a certain time he will produce his own subsistence. Thus you free the land from all other expenses, and you deliver it from the difficulty which environs the inclosure of waste land at present.

What reason have you to believe that such land can be made productive at all?—The general establishment of the fact, and particular instances. All the waste land, and there has been an enormous quantity, inclosed since 1797, has been made productive; very little has gone out of cultivation; and there is the particular instance of Mr. Coke's estate in Norfolk, for which I may quote Dr. Rigny, who was on very intimate terms with Mr. Coke. In the year 1818 the doctor published a book, called "Holtham, and its Agriculture." He then stated, from documents, I believe, in the possession of the family, that upon Mr. Coke's accession to the estate, one of the largest farms was offered at 5s. per acre, tithe-free, and refused. At the time he wrote, he saw the very same land bearing 12 coombs of wheat per acre; and Mr. Coke assured him that it had borne 20 coombs of barley; and he stated the general rise of Mr. Coke's property to be from 2,300*l.* to 20,000*l.* per annum, and that in the course of Mr. Coke's agricultural life, which was then about 40 years. It is impossible to conceive that the mere expenditure of capital could have produced such an advance of value, for if he had applied a sufficient quantity of capital to compensate the difference between the rent of 3*s.* and 3*l.*, it will be apparent that, taking the mean term, 210 years rent must have been sunk.

You do this upon the authority of Dr. Rigny, not upon your own personal knowledge?—I know the fact, as I have heard it from the Doctor himself. His book went through three editions, and has been circulated for twelve years without contradiction. I was intimate with the Doctor when he published his book; and I have every reason to believe he derived his information either from Mr. Coke or his steward.

Are you prepared to state what quantity of cultivable waste land there may be in the United Kingdom?—Mr. Cowling, a civil engineer, has stated before the Emigration Committee, and delivered in a Table, in which he shows that there are about 15,000,000 of acres cultivable, but not cultivated.

Are you prepared with any details as to the expense of locating a pauper?—Of course I have considered the subject, and I have understood that in about 12 years a man will be able to repay the cost of location. The expense varies, according to different opinions, from 40*l.* to 60*l.*; that is, providing him with a habitation, with seed, with utensils, and with living for such portion of one year as might be required. Some compute 20*l.* for building a cottage, and others 30*l.*

Do you refer to single men or married?—A married man. I think Mr. Cowling's computation is 52*l.*, and that he gives him one or two cows into the bargain.

Do

Do you include in that computation the supposed wages of the man for a twelve-month?—I conceive six months of his provision is included, and from 40*l.* to 60*l.* would provide a habitation for a man and his family, and six months' maintenance. A gentleman told me a few days ago, that he had built cottages on an estate in Norfolk for 20*l.* each.

Do you think a cottage that was built for 20*l.* would last for 12 years?—I am a practical judge of that; I built six cottages more than twenty years ago for 120*l.*, which are still standing.

What do you conceive to be the produce fairly to be expected?—The average produce of Norfolk is five coombs and a half per acre of wheat; but that of course would depend upon the quantity of manure the locator might employ, and other circumstances. Mr. Owen, in the year 1822, was called upon by the grand jury of the county of Lanark to state the best means of employing the poor; and he published his Report, in which was introduced the statement of Mr. Falla, a nursery gardener in the neighbourhood of Newcastle, who had for many years carried on experiments in planting of wheat by spade husbandry; he found in all cases the production to be from 60 to 70 bushels per acre. I think, therefore, that after a certain time, when the opportunities of raising the manure, and so forth, were ripened, you might fairly expect the average produce of Norfolk from the land so located.

What proportion of land would you apportion to each family?—From the inquiries I have made amongst labourers, I find that they are satisfied, perfectly, with from two to four acres, as affording the entire means of maintenance for a family. I have never asked a man who would take less than two; I have never found a man who would ask more than four: but I think in this case a certain allowance should be given for increase, and enough should be apportioned to a man. Land would be very inconsequential as compared with the after circumstances, and therefore I think enough should be given fairly to satisfy the man. My feeling is, that as far as possible the country should be guarded against that increase which must naturally be expected under the circumstances.

Has your plan any regard to class?—I should generally take the best men from the village; it would give them an opportunity of location; and then the idle would be compelled to active employment, because they would derive none of the assistance they have been accustomed to receive from the rates: as a man would be employed, he would have no title to relief, and he must depend upon his labour for his subsistence.

Has any other suggestion occurred to your mind upon this subject?—My impression is, that the principle, if I may so call it, of the whole scheme depends upon diminishing competition and upon increasing production, and by that means occasioning fresh demand to the extent of that production, while all that is now paid in rates will be left as a fund for the employment of labour in some way or other. In the present times, the great object is to make a man earn his own subsistence; if not, whether he takes it in charity, whether he takes it in plunder or in poor's rate, it must come out of the production, which is now obtained by other labourers than his own.

You differ from the doctrines of Mr. Malthus in some of those respects?—I differ from him in this respect: I think that the professor's data are taken up on an extreme case, and never can apply, unless they apply artificially, till the whole surface of the land is cultivated; because, if the progression is that which he states, arithmetical as to production, geometrical as to population, the ratio can obtain only where there is not sufficient room for the exercise of labour. We know that one man will produce more than he can consume if you give him sufficient space and means of action; consequently, the geometrical proportion of population, and the arithmetical proportion of food, can never arise till the field is lessened. This is, however, what the country is at this moment suffering; I imagine the field for labour is too contracted.

You are aware that an example has been drawn from Ireland, which, proceeding exactly on your system, has reduced it to a state of the most abject misery?—On the contrary, Ireland has not enlarged its area in proportion to its population; Ireland, instead of proceeding on the same plan, is now confining an increasing population to a limited area.

Is it probable, or even possible, that there may come a time when population shall exceed the power of the soil to produce subsistence; and ought we to take any course which may lead to such an effect?—I conceive that the event contemplated

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plated is, comparatively speaking, what we are now actually suffering; but if it were supposed that the evil imagined will positively arise, we should then still only suffer destitution. It is true, we have at this moment not quite arrived at that extreme point, but we are yet witnessing great destitution and great evil; and the question is, are we not to remove the evil, lest a greater evil, at an indefinite and incomprehensible period, shall arrive?

Have you at all compared the advantages of emigration with home colonisation?—The first question is, whether either can be accomplished. We have no power to compel a man to emigrate; that must be a voluntary act on the part of the individual, and can never be an act of the State. In the next place, it is a fiscal question, whether the expense of one is greater than the other, and whether the return will be made more easily from the one than the other. Amplitude of space is of great importance, which is certainly in favour of foreign emigration. On the contrary side, there is the separation of connections, and the chance of the separation of the colony eventually; but I think one of the capital circumstances in the comparison is, the circulation that is produced by the one, and which cannot be produced by the other. For instance, suppose a man makes a return in produce from abroad, and accepts manufactures from this country, there the transaction ends; but if a man in this country employ the produce he first raises, which is subsequently converted by the common process into any staple article, whatever is so produced, through the infinite ramifications of society remains the national wealth of this country. On the contrary, after the manufactures have been sent abroad in return for the produce, the produce of that state remains the wealth of that country, not of this.

Have you any documents which will show the relation between employed and unemployed labourers in any district in Norfolk?—Mr. Richardson, a person of considerable property and experience, and the agent of Mr. Bulwer of Heyden, has published the accounts of eight parishes; and from these it appears that 5,824*l.* 10*s.* had been the expense for the poor in those eight parishes, and that to able-bodied labourers, for want of work on the roads, there has been paid 3,354*l.* 1*s.* 9*d.*, namely, about three-fifths of the whole sum for the mere support of idleness. I am not aware that any other document of the same kind so accurate as this exists. Mr. Richardson's proposition is for district farms, and to absorb the labour by individual employment.

Was any part of the wages of labour paid out of the poor's rate?—I apprehend that a certain rate was paid; and that whenever large families were included, their maintenance was made up out of the rate: but Mr. Richardson makes a statement of every disbursement in every parish.

Will you read the detail as given by him?—

[*The Witness reads the same, which is as follows:*]

PARISH of D.

948 Acres. £. 714. Valuation. £. 366. 13*s.* 3*d.* Amount of Rate.

40 married men, with 102 children, 40 of which are able to maintain themselves by employment.

9 of these are trades; had occasionally meal-money; not employed on the lands.

194 single men.

39 labourers; six of these only half men; which leaves

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36 full-bodied labourers, and

40 children, to be employed.

8 widows and old men, not able to work.

£. 8 a year sufficient for labour to keep the roads in repair.

Rate of wages, 9*s.* a week, for man, wife and three children.

Six extra children to be supported, after putting three to a married man and his wife.

How the Rate was expended:

	£.	s.	d.
Paid to widows, old men unable to work, and children	60	-	-
to labourers and their families, in illness	21	5	10
for medical aid	19	9	-
Clothing for the poor	17	6	6
County rate	9	10	-
Carpenter, for barrows and coffins, and constables' expenses	5	4	6
Ordnance's expenses	4	5	-
House-rent	10	-	-
to labourers out of work, on the roads, and meal-money for children	219	12	5
	£.	366	13 3

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What are the reasons which would induce you to think the non-employment of labour does not arise from insufficient capital?—The universality of the fact: I conceive that the difference between the sum that must be paid to maintain the pauper, and the sum paid to him for his labour, is so small, that if his labour could be made productive the farmer would necessarily find the means. It is the case in all other concerns. Suppose the wages of labour are 12s. per week, that is 31l. 4s. a year, they would allow him from 6s. to 8s. a week, and more if he had a family; therefore the only difference in the capital to be found by the farmer is between the 8s. and the 12s., namely 4s.; that is about 10l. a year, and that to be paid in small weekly sums. Now I do conceive that a farmer, having all the rent, tithe, and every outgoing besides to pay, if he can produce one bushel above this cost, will not fail to employ the labourer. The universality of the fact appears to me to answer the question; and besides, we know that where there are very large farmers, who are possessed of great capital, they do not extend the quantity of labour far beyond the smaller ones. That is another proof that as much capital has been expended on land as is profitable.

Have you made any computation relative to the unemployed in agriculture and in manufactures?—In 1812, by looking at Mr. Colquhoun's book on the Resources of Great Britain, and as far as I have been able to examine his statement, which I have done in many instances where I could prove whether they were false or true, I found him correct. I find he states the number of paupers (four in a family) were then 4,548,400; the number of labourers in agriculture and mines, 3,154,142. To those families he reckons four and a half; therefore he imagines a failure of one half a person in each family, owing to the difference of their condition; that pauperism would produce a loss, that is to say, of one-ninth of the population. He reckons the artisans at 4,343,339. He estimated the poor's rate at that time at six millions; it now amounts to about seven millions and a half; therefore we may suppose the pauper population has increased about one-seventh from that period: but the computation would be affected by the high prices of provisions at that time, and the allowances to the poor which have been since carried into effect; therefore the relations may stand pretty nearly the same as these numbers, though the numbers will not remain the same.

Did you mean to state that you do not approve of reduction of taxation?—No; I merely said, that although reduction of taxation left a greater sum in the hands of the farmer, it would not affect the labourer's condition; because the competition would prevent his taking advantage of that reduction in the way in which, if there was only a sufficient number of labourers, he would be able to enjoy it. I speak simply of the effect of taxation on the condition of the labourer, cramped and fettered as he is at this moment by competition; that competition would abate any effect he might in common with others, under other circumstances, expect to derive from the undoubted general benefit of a decrease of taxation.

You stated that one of your objections to emigration is, that you cannot make it compulsory. If people are willing to go abroad in sufficient numbers, would not this be a much better thing than compelling them to go there?—Undoubtedly; but you cannot compel them. My objection to emigration is, that, being left optional, suppose the Irish say, "We will not emigrate," or a parish say, "We will not emigrate;" the evil would be then continued, simply owing to the obstinacy of the individuals.

Did you allude to the United States when you stated that it will be better that the labourers should be settled at home than sent abroad?—No, certainly.

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What objection would there be to labourers in this country going to Van Diemen's Land?—I stated, that if the growth and circulation of the new production, in short, if the new accumulated wealth were kept at home, it would appear to be most beneficial; whereas, on the contrary, if capital and labour departed, you will expose it to the risk of employment there, while there was none at home, and to the chance of the final separation of the colony.

Suppose a labourer earns at this moment in Van Diemen's Land, 5s. a day for his labour, would it not be a great advantage to that colony if other labourers should go there to reduce that price of labour to the usual amount?—That is a question which involves many considerations, and that I should be loath to answer without further reflection.

Are you aware that the colonies are a great expense at this moment to England?—I am.

Are you aware that large sums are annually voted for the maintaining and securing our foreign possessions?—I am.

Do not you think that by facilitating the settlement of labourers from this country in those colonies, thereby reducing the price of labour, which is now exorbitant in those colonies, and by increasing the number of persons to consume the agricultural produce of these countries, a very large sum of money might within a certain portion of time be saved to England?—That is too wide a question for me to answer off hand. I am not an enemy to foreign emigration; I think they should both go on together.

Those paupers whom you propose to place on the waste lands will become small farmers?—Yes.

Do you consider that a small farmer, with no capital but his labour, can compete with a large farmer who has a capital?—I think in this case that is not precisely the object; the object is to make a man raise enough for his own subsistence; and if he does that, the remoter consideration which the question proposes must be left to the event. One man's frugality and one man's labour will accumulate as well as produce a great deal more than those of another. I think that the competition between the great farmer and the small one is out of the question. My proposal is merely to enable a man to earn his own subsistence, and to maintain him upon his own ground. If he produces anything more, so much the better; if not, he leaves the whole amount of what is now paid for the maintenance of the poor in the hands of the classes who are deprived of this sum.

You mean that he should provide clothing for himself?—Every thing. My proposition is, that the man would be satisfied to exchange for four acres of land all his hopes of parochial allowance, past, present, and to come. Give a man from two to four acres, and provide him with subsistence for a certain number of months, and he would be perfectly satisfied to give up his present claims.

Suppose he breaks his leg within seven months of his getting the land, how would you propose to relieve him?—I have proposed that in all cases of sickness and infirmity the man shall have relief from the parish from which he has been drawn, in order to avoid burdening the parish where the location is made; and that such location should be extra-parochial.

Do not you think that the erecting of houses to a considerable extent, with home colonization, would tend to that which has very much increased the burden under which the farmers are labouring, increase of population beyond the means, in an agricultural point of view, of employment?—I think that the question loses sight of the step in the proposition that those persons would be settled on land that would maintain them. If a man buys just as much land as will hold the base of a cottage upon it, in comes a man with eight or ten children from a neighbouring town, and he brings no means of maintenance; but in the case of a colonist, wherever a man settles, he draws the means of living from his land.

Supposing the quantity of land you would give to a colonization on its first establishment to be sufficient for the support of 2,000 persons; in the course of 15 or 20 years those 2,000 persons increase to 6,000; in what state then would this colony be with that quantity of land which you deemed sufficient for the support of 2,000?—The principle must be extended; the size of the area must be extended in proportion to the increase of the population: the case supposed is the very evil we are now suffering. There would be, I apprehend, considerable difference as there is a reckless population or a moral population. The question arises, which of the two circumstances is likely to be most beneficial or injurious

to the country. If a man comes to-day to a justice and says, "I am a single man," he gets no relief; he returns the next week a married man, and obtains relief. The question lies between the policy of immediately providing for the destitution we now suffer, and of perhaps finally increasing that destitution hereafter. The next branch of the proposition appears to be, whether giving those persons a stake in society will not induce them to act more prudentially than giving them no stake; whether, by placing persons in a situation of comfort, they will go on more advantageously. The opinion of Mr. McCulloch is, I believe, that prudent habits would be engendered by making persons more comfortable; and he has quoted other authorities to the same effect.

The period must arrive, if this plan was generally acted on, when ground could not be found sufficient in this country for the increase of population?—Still it is a question between a present and a future evil.

You have stated that you think it was not for want of capital the occupier of land did not employ the superfluous labouring classes, and that the small difference between the demand upon him in employing additional labourers, and the present amount which he pays to the support and maintenance of that man's family out of the poor's rate, is so trifling, it does not arise from that circumstance. In your opinion are the poor's rates generally borne by the occupier or by the owner of the soil?—They must be borne eventually by the owner of the soil, for it is quite clear it will enter into the value of the land; and the occupier, before engaging a farm, would consider how much poor rate he would have to pay, and would add that to the rent; and of course the less the amount of poor's rate the more rent he would be able to give. This constitutes the difference between the rents of parishes where the poor's rates are high and where they are low.

Therefore the difference in the poor's rates would be borne by the owner and not the occupier?—Distinctly so.

You stated that there is no means of enforcing emigration. There is no law by which you can enforce home colonization?—I think in one case it might be made a matter of relief; in the other, not. I do not apprehend it is consistent with the principles of civil liberty to send a man out of the country; but you can make the option of relief as to providing him in the country.

Do you not feel that there is a very great willingness in the common people of this country to go abroad?—I think there has been, from extreme destitution; not from any other feeling.

Are you aware of the number who emigrated last year?—I am not accurately informed as to the number, but there was a very small proportion to the necessity of the case.

You have acknowledged that the present agricultural state of the population among the poor might be practically remedied or improved. Will you mention what you consider would tend to the amelioration of that state of things?—The settling the poor on waste lands, and enabling them to produce sufficient for their subsistence from that land.

Is that the only plan you would recommend?—I think there are many other expedients that would be subsidiary.

Are there any you can state to the Committee?—The giving small portions of land to individuals, I consider to be extremely beneficial, but I look rather to the general question, and seek to meet the whole rather than a portion of the case. Where, for instance, it may be found that there is a great redundancy of labourers in a parish, no possible remedy of that sort could avail, for if a man has half an acre for his garden, it is presumed he is to earn a certain amount by his daily labour. I consider it therefore only in the light of a subsidiary plan where the proportion is not so extremely great as to require the application of a general plan.

Are there any other plans which occur to you by which you think an improvement might be effected in the present system?—A question has been raised whether the employment of labour on a district farm would not answer the same purpose; but I consider that to be merely a change of terms; whether you hire land, or place men on waste land, appears to me to be the same thing under another form, with this distinction, that if you hire 300 acres of land which is now in cultivation, and employ the poor upon it, you take so much out of the present production of the country, and merely change the possession from one individual to a number of labourers. You add nothing, in fact, to the aggregate of production.

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But if you take the same number of labourers, and place them on fresh soil, they produce fresh production; they earn their subsistence without decreasing the present stock.

Are there any other modes which you would recommend by which the agricultural poor might be benefited?—There is no other circumstance occurs to me.

You mentioned emigration. Has it not been proved by experience that very soon after a void is made by sending people away, it is filled up?—Unquestionably; but I apprehend that would follow under any circumstances. If we deport a certain number, the population would still go on to fill the void, but in a slower degree. If we colonize here, the population would go on in this country; but still so long as there is sufficient space to extend the parallels of the two progressions, there is no danger. The evil can only arise when there is no longer any foundation on which you can build fresh production.

It appears to you to be a temporary but not a permanent scale in any degree meeting the case?—I conceive there can be no permanent scale, but extending the field according to the extent of population, whether at home or abroad. The question I have been examined to is, whether the two plans may not be subsidiary to each other? It appears to me that both have great advantages, both fiscally and morally.

How can you account for the fact, that where there is such an immensely larger population, as in China and the East Indies, there does not appear to be that distress which at present exists in this kingdom?—I apprehend that question is answered by the low state, perhaps I may call it, of civilization in China. Their families go on in the same rank; a shoemaker begets a shoemaker, and he can be nothing else; he is content with the minimum of subsistence; and infanticide prevails to a great extent; therefore the increase of population does not go on to the same degree.

You have stated that land which would not be productive to the farmer might be rendered productive to the colonist. Do you mean to state, that, the minimum of subsistence to paupers being already paid for, any produce from the cultivation under the location you propose beyond that minimum of subsistence would be a remunerating price; or do you mean to say, that the produce from that location would be remunerating, without taking that previous expenditure into account?—My impression is very decidedly that every endeavour they make, which increases production, and diminishes the payment of poor rates, is, in so far, an addition to the national wealth. I can but believe, that after a certain time those small farms would become as effectually productive as any land now under cultivation. *Ceteris paribus*, large farms must always have a great advantage, from the division of labour, over small ones; but I think, taking it generally, the produce upon those small farms would be at a fair average compared with the larger ones, and I have no doubt would be as effectually productive as any land in the country.

How do you then account for large farmers not being able to cultivate those tracts at present?—I have already stated that the expense of inclosure, and the bringing them into cultivation by paid labour, constitutes the difference. Here is no expense; here is a general inclosure; the land is purchased of the parish at its value; it depastures a few cattle; it is bought at the rate of 5*s.* an acre perhaps. But the lord of a manor inclosing, pays a heavy law bill, and is then obliged to pay the labourers, and to incur the paring, burning, and all the general expense of cultivation. He thus lays out a large capital on the land, which my plan does not contemplate. It merely contemplates the changing the residence of maintained paupers from this place to that, till they rise by that labour, which they are not now suffered to employ, the food which will sustain them.

How does the supposition, that no capital expended can be profitably incurred upon land at present in cultivation, agree with Mr. Owen's assertions of the immense produce to be obtained by spade cultivation?—That is a question of practical experience. If Mr. Falla's theory is borne out, it is quite clear that spade cultivation would be the best mode; but it is a singular circumstance, that there is an enormous difficulty in bringing gentlemen to the experiment. So soon as Mr. Owen published his report, he sent it to me; I re-published the spade experiments, and wrote or spoke to every gentleman with whom I was acquainted of the facts. I re-published them at three different periods, and I insisted upon the benefit of dispersing his experiments as strongly as I could through my own journal, which I consider to be read every week by sixty thousand persons; and I never could, privately or publicly, persuade any one to the cultivation of a single acre by the
spade,

spade, and that in a county more devoted to agriculture than any other county in the kingdom.

Have you considered what alteration can be made in the poor laws when the surplus population has been absorbed by the means you propose?—The poor laws would then be virtually abrogated; they would be a dead letter, if we can conceive a time when every man may be made to earn his own subsistence.

You have been obliged to make an exception in your plan for sickness and infirmity; are there any alterations in the poor laws which you would suggest, if that plan was adopted?—I think the law of settlement in the first instance, should be reduced to more simple heads; whether to the head of birth, to settlement by hiring of land or house, or to both, is a question of some difficulty. But in its present state, there is no doubt one of the greatest grievances is the uncertainty of the law of settlement. The nearer it is reduced to one simple rule, the more easily it would be accomplished, and the better. It has been proposed to extend the settlement to the county, that is, to make a county rate instead of a parish rate; but there are very great objections. One is, that a gentleman who would exercise great care over his own estate would be injured by the want of care of another. Representations have been made to a nobleman who has an estate, which is known to me, that his estate in three generations will not be worth sixpence, in consequence of small proprietorships; he has, in fact, lost the control over his own estate. It would be a great hardship to the gentleman owning the next parish to mingle their estates together. I think that would be a very serious evil arising from a county rate. The reducing the settlement to birth appears the simplest and easiest plan. There is one inconvenience attached, namely, that the great towns would continue to be burdened in an increasing ratio.

Ought not it to be so, as they get the profit of their labour?—Not always: So many of them get out of the town and seek employment elsewhere.

Do not many come from the villages into the towns in search of employment, and after having lived there for a number of years go back in their old age, and throw themselves on their country parishes for support?—I think it very much depends upon the state of employment. If the country parish could afford the general means of employment to the new-born, I have no doubt they would stay there. Some, no doubt, have wandering propensities, and like to see the world; but I think the population of country villages is not generally inclined to move. The population of great towns is more inclined to wander.

Do you not, in point of fact, know that the country round Norwich, upon trade being slack in the city, is sometimes inundated with weavers who cannot find employment?—The trade in Norwich, a very few years ago, was exceedingly flourishing; so much so, that the hands in Norwich could not do the work. The introduction of the fly shuttle enables a weaver to be taught his art in the course of a very short time; therefore the moment it was found there was employment in Norwich, the country parishes adopted the trade; but when the trade became slack, all the country parishes lost their trade; and in the village in which I live, where there were ten looms that were at work four years ago, there is not one now. The consequence was, that the operation was reciprocal; that Norwich was at one time inundated with the country weavers; and now the country weavers are deprived of the employment they received from Norwich. This gave rise to the idea that the Norwich weavers had emigrated to the country; whereas country weavers had gone to Norwich for employment, and now are compelled or have returned to throw themselves on the parish rates.

Do you intend that the located persons in home colonization should be entitled to claim from the rates of other subjects, or that they should claim no poor rates?—I put that as an optional question to the Committee, whether it would be advisable that a man should stipulate to give up all his claims upon being located?

Suppose he does give them up, and that he is located on some of those wastes; do you imagine that the usual law of increase of population would go on, or that there would be a check in those new districts to the increase of population?—None but a prudential check. But I apprehend that would be far stronger than it is in the present reckless state of population, and in the present state of the law, which gives encouragement to a married man, and refuses it to a single one.

The Irish occupier, on the new location, has not any claim on the poor rates; the Irish occupier at present has no poor rates: where do you consider the difference to exist which would operate on the English, which does not influence the

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Irish?—I think, in the first place, the Irish and English character differ essentially. I think that the Irishman has been corrupted by very long habit; I think he has lost all taste for comfort. The English labourer, on the contrary, is a much more prudent man; he is benefited by education; the very discussion of this question has made those reflective who would not have been so otherwise; and I entertain no doubt that the mere lifting a man into a situation in which it becomes a matter of greater prudence for him to take care of himself and family than it was before, raises a legitimate presumption that he will do so: and the testimony of Sismondi, in respect to the population of Austria, goes to a great degree to decide the question. The same reasoning is to be found in Mr. McCulloch's *Treatise on Political Economy*. He takes up the objection of Malthus, and answers it, I think, very completely. Mr. Malthus lays down as a rule to be generally assumed, that population proceeds in a geometrical, the production of food in an arithmetical series, and that, consequently, when population presses against subsistence, it must receive its natural check. The consequence would be true if the premises were true. Mr. McCulloch goes further even than this, for he admits the fact, while he controverts its consequence. He says, "It sometimes no doubt happens, that, notwithstanding this resource, and the most strenuous efforts on the part of the industrious classes, population so far outruns production that the condition of society is changed for the worse; but the evils thence arising bring with them a provision for their cure; they make all classes better acquainted with the circumstances which determined their situation in life; and while they call forth fresh displays of invention and economy, they at the same time dignify and exalt the character by teaching us to exercise the prudential virtues, and to subject the passions to the control of reason. It does, therefore, seem reasonable to conclude, that the law of increase, as previously explained, is in every respect consistent with the beneficent arrangements of Providence; and that, instead of being subversive of human happiness, it has increased it in no ordinary degree. Happiness is not to be found in apathy and idleness, but in zeal and activity. It depends far more on the intensity of the pursuits than on the attainment of the end. The 'progressive state' is justly characterized by Dr. Smith 'as being in reality the cheerful and hearty state to all the different orders of society; the stationary is dull, the declining melancholy.' But had the principle of increase been less strong, the progress of society would have been less rapid. While, however, its energy is on the one hand sufficient to bring every faculty of the mind and body into action, it is on the other so far subject to control, that, speaking generally, its beneficial far outweighs its pernicious consequences. It is, therefore, to the principle of moral restraint, or to the exercise of the prudential virtues, that we should exclusively trust for the regulation of the principle of population. In an instructed society, where there are no institutions favourable to improvidence, this check is sufficiently powerful to confine the progress of population within due limits, at the same time that it is not so powerful as to hinder it from operating in all cases as the strongest incentive to industry and economy."

You think that the mere removing of those persons to a new location will raise the prudential principle into such vigour, that they will not be to be assimilated to the Irish population?—A new character is given to a man by new circumstances.

Do you not think that the present depression is greatly owing to the amount of taxation?—Not of the agricultural labourers. It is not owing to this cause in the degree to which we see it often assumed. I beg to refer to my answer in a former examination. I think that the new circumstance of society is, the non-absorption of the labour by individuals giving employment; that the population cannot be employed without the intervention of the state.

You think it must influence in some degree?—I should not state taxation to be the cause.

Do you not conceive that the uncultivation of land is one cause of the agricultural distress?—Unquestionably. At the same time there was a period when, unless every stimulus had been applied to agriculture, the country would not have been fed. During the period when the Berlin and Milan decrees prevailed, unless the greatest possible stimulus had been applied by this country, and scientific power made to bear on the great object of increasing production, it would have been impossible to have subsisted the population of this country; and the necessity, therefore, justify the means. I am quite satisfied that the moral character

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of the people of England has been very much injured by the aggregation of small into large farms.

And that that has occasioned a want of employment?—Yes, it has assisted in producing that effect.

Do you mean to state that from the putting a labourer and his family into possession of four acres, the prudential check would act as much in that class of society as we now find in the higher classes?—I think it would act more so. The labourers are particularly sensitive to their own interests; and in whatever way their minds are directed to their own interests, they will follow it. There will always be reckless characters; but wherever the mind of a labourer is instructed as to the best mode of promoting his own interest, he will follow it with greater instinct, so to speak, than those who have higher objects in life. I consider that the moral consequences are by far the most important; the pecuniary consequences are sufficiently important, but the moral consequences more so. The population of England is now going, and must gradually go, from bad to worse. Unless some efficient step be taken, and soon taken, the country cannot be saved from convulsion. Such is the opinion I have drawn from long observation, from having seen what has passed in our own district, and from the general information I have obtained in my capacity of editor of a newspaper.

If it is worth the while of the farmer, as you conceive it is, to pay the men 12s. a week for work actually performed, rather than 8s. a week while they remain idle; how do you account for the fact that there are many farms on which the sheep are dying in consequence of the want of drainage, and yet that that is not performed while there are so many men remaining unemployed?—I think that resolves itself into the exception. This is a case of great calamity, that has deprived a great class of farmers of their capital; but it does not appear to me it is a general case, where there is a redundancy of labourers; and the difference lies between the payment of a man as a labourer and as a pauper. I proceed on the general presumption, that if, all the expenses of the farm remaining the same, the additional labour on the land would add to its production, and consequently to the remuneration, such labour would infallibly be employed. Now it is not so; and I think, therefore, it goes far to establish the fact, that the application of much more labour to land now under cultivation is not likely to be profitable. There are, however, various opinions. I have conversed with many persons who say that all the labour of England could be so absorbed, and with advantage. Mr. Owen, in his comparison of spade husbandry, went so far as to say that 60,000,000 might be employed.

Has any other improvement in the Poor Laws than those you have mentioned, occurred to your notice?—That of settlement is the great question. More might be done if we could overcome the excruciating question, whether an allowance is to be given to a man with a large family? Suppose two men, one single, and the other married, with from five to seven children, come into the labour market. With the same wages the single man will have a comfortable subsistence, while the man with a large family must have relief, and it is not to be expected that a farmer should pay the one more than the other. Then comes the question, how the maintenance of their families is to be gotten rid of? I think the only aid is the assistance of small portions of land, under such conditions as may enable the married labourer to earn the subsistence for himself and family. The manufacturing population would be much benefited by co-operative societies, if they could be generally established, and include as a principle the production of food. Such a plan would most unquestionably tend to annihilate the poor's rate in cities. It would, indeed, tend to throw trade into new channels, but then it would also tend to the annihilation of the poor's rates.

By co-operative societies, do you mean societies on Mr. Owen's plan?—No, not absolutely; but a shop established at which labour could be exchanged at its price. Suppose a shoemaker were to make eight pairs of shoes, and the labour to be equal to that employed in making a coat, he should be able to go and receive that coat in exchange. In France it has been proposed to do the same thing by the use of labour notes. A man takes his commodity, and receives a note, and has a right to exchange that for other commodities of the same value. By this means the men would be enabled to consume the produce of each other's labour, which now they are not. They are obliged to go to an intermediate person, and, failing of a purchaser, they have nothing to do. If A. carried a pair of shoes, and received a labour note for four hours, he would be able to exchange that for another

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note which has the value of four hours' labour. The principle is an interchange of harter, which has been proved to be beneficial by the establishment of the many societies that exist in various parts of the kingdom.

Do you think any remedy can be applied, by the alteration of the laws, so that after a certain number of years we shall not return to the same state in which we are at present?—There appears to be no remedy but by extending produce relatively with population. If one be increased and the other be not, there must be evil; but supposing them both to be tolerably equalized, it is an error in the distribution, not in the production, which creates the evil. So long as they continue parallel there ought to be no want.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'clock.

Die Mercurii, 16th Februarii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

John Grey, Esq. is called in; and Examined as follows:

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WHERE do you reside?—At Milfield Hall, in Northumberland.

Are you a magistrate?—I am, for the county of North Durham; though I do not reside in that county, but on the borders of it.

Have you paid much attention to the condition of the labourers in your part of the country?—I have them constantly under my eye, both as an occupier of land and as a magistrate.

Are you acquainted with the state of labour at all in the southern districts?—I have been frequently in various counties in the southern districts, and have paid some attention to them; not so much from my own knowledge as from communications with other persons.

In your opinion, is the condition of the labouring classes in your own county preferable to that of the labourers in the south?—Very much so, I think.

To what particular cause do you attribute that?—I apprehend that it may be ascribed, in a great measure, to the different habits of the people; perhaps, in some measure, to their education and better information, their intelligence; but chiefly, I should think, to the manner in which they are engaged, and in which they are paid their wages on farms. I speak of the agricultural labourers.

Will you state the mode of hiring and service in your part of the country?—The mode of hiring farm servants in my part of the country is this: each farm servant who is a householder is provided with a cottage and a garden upon the farm on which he is hired to work; his hiring is from the May of one year to the May of another, annually; and his payment is given very much in grain, and in other things, which he himself requires for the use of his family; he has a house and garden free from rent; he has a cow kept upon his master's farm; he has a certain quantity of grain given to him, a certain quantity of wool given to him, and some money for himself; and then the younger branches of his family are employed upon the farm: so that the wages and the united earnings of the family, under the management of the mother or housekeeper, if they are frugal, give them a comfortable income; and it is rare that any of them apply to the parishes for relief.

Have you got a statement of the amount of wages at present paid?—I have. The wages, according to the present price of grain, is estimated to amount to about 38*l.* a year; or perhaps I may take it at 35*l.* a year, the amount of the gains of a married man.

Have the goodness to state the different heads of payment received by labourers?—The first article is thirty-six bushels of oats, 6*l.* 12*s.*; twenty-four bushels of barley, 5*l.* 12*s.*; twelve bushels of pease, 3*l.*; three bushels of wheat, 1*l.* 5*s.*; three bushels of rye, 15*s.*; thirty-six bushels of potatoes at 1*s.* 6*d.*, 2*l.* 14*s.*; twenty-four pounds of wool, which is a very useful article, for the women are employed in spinning it into yarn and knitting it into stockings, or send it to be
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woven into blaukets, when they would be doing nothing else, 1*l*; cow's keep for the year, 9*l*. (the cows are kept in the master's pasture, and they have an allowance of hay); a ton of hay, and as much of the best straw as they wish to consume; or if they do not get hay, they have an equivalent in turnips. There is a cow-house always annexed to the cottages, in which those cows are kept by themselves; then there is a cottage and garden, which I have estimated at 3*l*.; though that does not go out of the farmer's pocket, because the cottage having been once built by the landlord, the farmer has no expense but to keep it in repair, therefore, though it is worth 3*l*. to the labourer, the farmer does not pay that sum out of his pocket. Coals, leading from the pit, 2*l*. 8*s*.; that is done by farmers; according to the distance that is different; in some situations it is less, in some others is more. The payment in cash, 3*l*. 10*s*. That amounts to 38*l*. 16*s*., or nearly 15*s*. per week; but the price of grain upon which the money value of the wages depends, is higher at the present time than the average of years would amount to. That average would be about 35*l*. a year. It is worthy of observation, however, that the value of the grain herein stated is exactly what the farmer could obtain for it in the market, but produces to the servant a much greater quantity of meal than the same sum would purchase for him in small quantities at a retail shop. Then there are boys employed at 3*s*., 4*s*., 5*s*., 6*s*., or 8*s*. a week, as they happen to be grown up; and as it is a district in which turnips are more cultivated, and particularly cleaned and attended to, the females work in the field very much; and, in the general way, their situation is very good. One very obvious benefit arising from that mode is, that it gives to the hind, as the farmer's servant is called, the combined benefit of occupying land, as he has his garden and his cow supplied to him, without the risk of doing it, and with the other benefit of having in his service regular employment throughout the year.

How many hinds are there generally hired to an arable farm of 100 acres?—That must depend very much upon the rotation pursued in different parts of the country, and also on the nature of the soil. If there is a strong soil, which requires a great deal of working, and is seldom in grass, it requires a greater number of hinds than where the land is allowed to lie two or three years in grass; but, upon an average farm, I should say it would require one man to about forty acres. That, however, is over and above the extra labour of the woman and the younger part of the family, who are employed in the different branches.

Do you mean one hind or one man?—I mean one hind; there will be other occasional workers.

By a hind, you mean a man hired by the year?—Yes.

How many extra servants are there employed besides the hind?—That is a question I can hardly answer. If by that are intended the persons employed in harvest, there may be 100 one day, and very few the next: in regular work, about one regularly-hired hind from one end of the year to the other, for about 35 or 40 acres, besides extra labour. It must depend so much upon the quantity of hay made, and the quantity of corn, that it is not very easy to give an answer.

You stated that the family of the hind are employed; at how many do you calculate the family of a hind upon the average?—It varies. Each hind is expected to produce one female worker, or boy, to do the lighter operations of the farm at a lesser rate of wages. A shilling a day during the harvest, which commonly last about 30 days; and 8*d*. a day at other seasons, including the winter. He is bound to provide one when it is wanted; when they have two or three more, those are employed, or not, as occasion requires; and if they are employed, they are employed generally at a higher rate of wages than the one who is regularly employed.

What is the mode of life of a hind as to food?—The grain which he stipulates for, and the quantities of which I have stated, is given to him always in advance at the beginning of each quarter. He receives one quarter of his allowance in grain; and there are a great many small mills in the country at which it is ground at a very cheap rate. In this way they are provided with a sufficiency for their family within their own houses; meal, potatoes, and so on. They seldom have occasion to go to purchase any article they require, unless it is their tobacco and tea, if they indulge in that, to the village or town, and to that we are indebted for the great sobriety and domestic habits of the people, for their leisure hours are occupied in the care of their gardens, and having very little inducement to go away, not having their wages paid in money, they are free from the temptations

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of spending them in the alehouse, and the people live in a state of remarkable sobriety and simplicity.

What stock does a hind usually keep?—Each hind has one cow: it sometimes happens that if a man has more than one son engaged with himself, he has a second cow, which cow is in part of their wages; but there is always one cow to one house; and the refuse of their family, the produce of their garden, and other things, and the small potatoes they have, enable them regularly to fatten two pigs in the year, which is a great assistance to them.

Do they drink beer?—Very rarely; they have milk in their own houses; and their food is generally very different from that of the peasantry in the south; their breakfast is regularly porridge of oatmeal and milk: then they have their bacon and their bread, and their potatoes.

Do they hrew or buy the beer they drink?—I know of no instance of their hrewing; when they have it it is supplied by the master in harvest time; but it is not very much which is given to them.

Do they drink spirits?—Not much; they are generally very sober. In the experience I have on my own farm, I never remember to have seen one man that was intoxicated. It may happen once or twice a year, that they have occasion to go to a fair to buy a pig, and they may drink a little; but their habits are generally very sober.

Do marriages take place generally at a very early period?—Not very early. There is one check which I think is very salutary, the custom of being possessed of a cow. It is not considered a very reputable thing for a young man to marry unless he can be so independent as to furnish a house and get a cow; when they are able to purchase a cow and furnish a house, they have a degree of independence which enables them to face the world and set up for themselves. It certainly does happen sometimes that there are early and improvident marriages, especially if there is a child in the way, that commonly ends in a marriage; but in such cases it is not unfrequent that there is that connection between the master and servant, that the master may either lend him a cow of his own until he is able to get one, or give him a little assistance in purchasing it, till he is able to work it out. I have done that, and prefer that mode, because it is desirable to let a man have a feeling of having property of his own, for by so doing you encourage a spirit of independence.

Are the hinds fond of changing their service?—Not generally. If they get into a good situation, or under a good service, it is attended with inconvenience; there are local attachments and habits which are formed, that they do not lightly break through; they are of course changing occasionally.

Have you any statement of the length of service of the different individuals for any particular period?—Yes; I have made a statement, thinking that question might perhaps be asked, of the length of service of the hinds upon one particular farm on which there are thirteen men: the first has been twenty-five years in that place; the second, twelve; the third, only one; the next, thirty; the next, nine; the next, fourteen; the next, four; the next, twenty; the next, twelve. The average, however, is thirteen years residence under the same master in the same place.

Can you state what half-yearly settlement was made with those individuals at the end of the year?—I have not here the statement of their earnings for the amount of the year, but I have a statement of what they had left, which they did not find it necessary to draw out of their master's hands during the course of the half year: they have nothing like a weekly payment of money. There is a lodger account kept by the steward or bailiff of the farm, and on the Saturday night, whatever money they receive, or whatever days the extra hands have been employed during the week, such as boys or girls, are entered in his book, and there is an account made up each half year. It is generally an object to them to live as frugally as they can, and to have a very good account at the settling time; they are settled with on the 12th of May and 12th of November. I find that at Martinmas last the first person here had to receive from his master 8*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.*; the second, 15*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*; that was a man who had a son working at weekly wages; this amount they had left in their master's hands, and had to draw out in one sum to pay their shoe bills and whatever they wanted. The next, 9*l.* 7*s.* 11*d.*; the next, 5*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*; 7*l.* 14*s.* 4*d.*; 23*l.* 2*s.* 2*d.*; in that case the man had two sons, the one receiving 5*s.* a week, and the other 4*s.* a week, and a certain quantum of corn besides; they are always anxious to have as much paid in

kind as will keep them out of the market; if they conceive they have not that from the men's wages, they are desirous to have it on the sons; in this instance the young man had so much grain and 4s. a week, instead, probably, of 8s. a week. The next is 4l. 3s. 11d.; 6l. 12s. 4½d.; 7l. 2s. 5½d.; 5l. 15s. 1d.; 5l. 16s. 7d.; 4l. 9s. 10½d.; then comes one who was in debt to his master 7l. 9s. 8d.; the reason of this person being indebted to his master, instead of having a sum of money to receive from him, was this, he had had the misfortune to lose a valuable cow by death, and being unable to purchase another, having a large family, was indebted to his master for the loan of 10l. to enable him to do so, which loan, it is understood he is to pay off by instalments, or as he can afford, which, as his family gets up to be useful, he will have it in his power to do; the existence of this kind of confidence and accommodation may be adduced as one of the beneficial effects of the system herein explained; a master in such cases frequently gives the servant the use of one of his cows, until he can procure one for himself; but the servant is always anxious to have the credit of having a cow of his own; and it would be absurd not to give every encouragement to the maintenance of so laudable a spirit.

Have they often recourse to parochial relief?—No; very seldom. It may further be worthy of remark, that only two in the foregoing list ever received parochial relief; one who was disabled by illness from working for nearly three years, and another whose father died leaving a widow and four very young children, of whom he was the eldest; but since the time that he was sixteen years of age, the whole family have been supported by their own industry; he was at first assisted by his master in the purchase of a cow, which is now cleared off, and the family are in good circumstances.

Do they generally make any great savings against old age?—No, I am not aware that they do; but they generally, as the family live together, have some provision in their old age; and the parents are very often assisted and supported by their children in such cases. The mother of this young man, whose case I have just mentioned, is now getting to be an old woman, but of course they do not think of applying to the parish for her, as long as he is unmarried and able to keep his condition as a hind; they have enough for the whole family.

Do they feel a pride in supporting their relations who are disabled?—In general they do; but the master generally supports his servants in time of sickness; the man being hired for the year, his wages go on, though he is unable to work for several weeks together; he has no deduction made from his wages by his master; that may appear a little hard perhaps on the individual master, but it comes to the same thing, whether he supports his own servant, or is called on to contribute to the support of all persons in similar situations in the parish; and it does not subject the person who has the misfortune of being deprived of health to the degradation of applying to the parish; and instead of claiming that as his right, he receives with thankfulness the assistance during his illness from his master; and that often induces him on his recovery to make exertions afterwards. I have heard the men express themselves in this way: "You have had a bad bargain of me during my illness, and I must do all I can to help you."

Have they any benefit clubs amongst them?—Yes, they have; not so much in cases of sickness, and probably from the cause I have stated, that they are not under the necessity of applying for parochial aid; but they have certain clubs; one, I think, which is very commonly subscribed to, to pay their expenses in case of funerals.

What is the amount of the rates in the pound in your parish?—This particular parish is divided into townships; and some of the townships, which are peculiarly agricultural, have scarcely any rate at all; 6d. in the pound on the rental would probably pay the whole; but the particular township in which those people live has a considerable village in it, and there the rates are higher, probably about 1s. in the pound, in consequence of having tradespeople, tailors and weavers, and some persons who get settlements from apprenticeships; and some few widows, perhaps, of the agricultural labourers, who have been left without a family to support them, may have 2s. or 3s. a week; but I should say that 1s. in the pound, even in that township, covers it, that being the highest in the parish; I believe 6d. in the pound would cover the whole parish.

What is the amount of the population?—I cannot state the population of the parish; in the township I allude to, about 300 probably.

What is the acreage?—About 1,400 acres.

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You have stated that the rates are higher in consequence of there being some tradespeople and others in the village; are those persons in the occupation of any small quantities of land?—They generally have a small garden, but very little, attached to their cottage; not enough, I think.

Do you find that their comforts in life are in proportion to those of the agricultural labourers?—No; they are not so regularly paid, and they have not the advantages the others have; they are some of them labourers, who will take piece work when they can get it; carpenters and persons of that description.

Are they a better or a worse class of people than the hinds?—Rather worse in their habits, I should think; the hinds are exempt from the uncertainties of high and low prices, because, although of course their earnings are not of equal value in money when corn is very low, yet the quantum of meal which the grain produces is the same, and when the corn is very high, they are exempt from the poverty which would otherwise accompany a money rate of wages. There is another remark which it may be proper to make, that in receiving as wages a quantum of grain, (which they get ground at a very cheap rate,) besides the temptation of spending money in public-houses when they go to purchase their weekly food, they are saved all the intermediate profits of the meal-dealer and baker; and I apprehend the quantity of grain given to those people, though it may cost the farmer 15*l.* or 16*l.*, would probably cost the labourer 20*l.* if he purchased it in small quantities of meal, or in leaves.

Is it generally in grain or in meal?—Generally in grain.

In the allowance given to labourers in articles of subsistence, is there a certain quantum given, without regard to its price?—There is a certain quantum given, without reference to the price.

It is the same in Scotland, is it not?—In Scotland they give it in meal; generally it amounts to the same thing, the calculation being the same.

Is it not better for them to have it in meal, as it saves the expense of grinding it?—The master makes his calculation, and if he incurs the expense, he will give somewhat less; but they generally prefer having it ground among themselves. There is a great competition among the very small mills: a man takes a mill, and buys a horse and cart, and he goes round and collects the grain from those people, and takes it back to them when ground; and the number of those mills keeps them on pretty good terms; they can get it ground according to their own fancy and taste. Of course the grain delivered to the servant is always the best which the farm produces; and that has one salutary effect, that it gives the servants an interest in the working of this grain, and in the preserving it in good condition; and instead of grumbling in bad weather at working extra hours in harvest, they have all an interest in preserving it in good order.

If the grain is damaged in harvest, are they satisfied with that, such as it is?—I should not say that; but I never heard an instance in which they did not get the very best grain that the farm would produce. I never knew a farmer feel himself called upon to go and purchase better, or that he has done so. I have known where the grain has been sprouted, that they have given a larger quantity to make up for the deficiency, though that is not the bargain.

If there is any surplus left, does the master take it back?—It is in the option of the servant to make the best he can of it. If a man has only a wife and daughter at home, his grain is greater than he can consume; this stands to his credit at the half-year's end, and it goes to his account at the market price of the day with his master.

Has he the option to take either the grain or the market price of the grain?—The master is bound to deliver him his grain, but he is not bound to buy it back of him. It often happens that the servants will prefer selling to the miller; but in my own case I am in the habit, and I believe it is a very general thing, if they have any surplus grain, to give them an allowance for it at the end of the half-year.

What is the expense of building cottages in your country?—About 30*l.* or 40*l.*

Including a cowhouse?—No; a cowhouse would cost as much as a cottage. The cowhouse is to accommodate the cows of six or eight persons; of course each man has his own separate pigstye; but one cowhouse is built to accommodate all those living on the same spot together; they do not have each a separate cowhouse.

You do not mean a mere shed for the cow belonging to the cottage, but a cowhouse to accommodate more than one?—A regular cowhouse, which would accommodate 10, if so many were wanted, of those persons' cows under one roof.

Living very close to the border, do you find any marked distinction between the Scotch labourers and the English labourers?—There is not much difference: there is only this, that there is a greater tendency to apply to the parish on our side of the border than the other; for on the other side, in many instances, they have not any parochial funds; but among the farming labourers I do not think there is any great difference; indeed they are very often interchanging, for they remove and go from one side of the border to the other.

Do you think that the introduction of the Poor Laws has deteriorated the condition of the labourers in your neighbourhood or not?—It clearly has deteriorated the condition of the poor in our neighbourhood, in so far as respects persons not regularly hired as farm servants: I am happy to say it has not so much encroached on the habits and feelings of the farm servants.

To what description of persons do you conceive the deterioration to apply?—I refer to tradespeople, and those who are not farm servants.

Are there many servants that have been out of employment in your part of the country?—There has been a considerable want of employment in the winter seasons, and storms of snow: that class of persons not engaged as yearly servants on farms are frequently without employment.

How do they subsist?—They must subsist by the savings they have made before; and if it continues too long for them, they must apply to the parish.

In point of fact, they do not often apply to the parish?—Not for two or three weeks, except in cases of illness.

It is when they are not employed?—Yes; there are a set of persons in every village or small town who are doing the extra work of the district, such as draining and road-making, who are not included in the class of servants I have been describing; and those are the persons who are commonly in want, and who may sometimes apply to the parish funds.

Does the practice of paying the labourers in grain lead to disputes between them and their masters?—No, not often. I have known disputes come before the magistrates sometimes, such as when they are not satisfied with the pasture the cow is put on, if it should be a very dry summer, and the grass not very abundant: but there are very few disputes; and this table, showing the average of years residence of persons on one farm, shows there is a pretty good understanding between the master and the servants.

What size are the gardens in general?—They are in general small, varying from the sixth to the fourth part of an acre; rather a sixth than a fourth: but as they have a large quantity of potatoes supplied by the farmers, they have less occasion for a garden; the garden is employed in the growing other vegetables.

Is your bushel given by measure or by weight?—It is given by measure; potatoes are measured by the heaped Imperial bushel, as much as will lie upon it.

How do they procure manure for their gardens?—They take it from their cow-yard; they have a cowhouse where they take as much as they like.

Does not that make misunderstanding between the parties?—No, I never heard of that; it is understood, that when they work their gardens in the spring they take the manure from their cowhouse.

You value the keep of the cow at 9*l.*; was that taking into calculation that the labourer took the manure of the cow for his garden?—Yes; as much of it as he wanted.

The labourer, you say, has always two pigs; has he the manure of the pigs for his land?—Of course, for his garden.

It has been stated that the hind generally receives as much straw as he requires for his use; what is done eventually with the straw when it becomes manure; does the master take it from him, or does he apply it to his garden?—He is allowed what his garden requires, but the farmer leads it away to his own fields: as soon as the place near the cowhouse is filled with manure, the farmer takes it away. The manure is the farmer's property, unquestionably.

The hinds in your part of the country have always been very loyal and very quiet, have they not?—They have always been very quiet: they would as soon think of burning their own houses as of burning the stacks.

You stated that the average earnings, and the quantity of grain and money paid to the hinds, are about 35*l.* a year; does that include the sum he shall receive for any number of children?—No; his own individual earnings.

Do you allow any sum for extra children?—No, except when they work; they are paid for their employment, but in no other way.

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You said that when a hind lost his cow, the farmer would assist him sometimes in getting another; is that a usual practice?—Yes, I believe it is. There are very many instances of the kind, where a farmer has lent the man a cow; in which case, however, the farmer generally takes the calf as his property; the hind is not allowed to have that. When a hind has a cow of his own, he fattens his calf or makes the most he can of it. In the other case, the calf is all the farmer gets for the use of his property.

Supposing the farmer was not inclined to give that assistance to his own hind, do the other farmers assist in any way?—No. I have often thought it would be desirable to have an insurance society for things of that description: but I have never known a man turned out of his place for want of a cow; he has been assisted by his master.

It does not happen, that if a farmer will not do the whole, other farmers will assist to accomplish it?—No.

Is it not a great advantage in your neighbourhood that the labourers should get their fuel cheap?—Yes, certainly; very great.

Do they use their potatoes for their own food, or for the cow or the pig?—Not at all for the cow; they are not required to spend any part of their earnings for their cow: they use them for the family, the refuse for the pigs.

Has there been no alteration, within your recollection, in respect of the labourers' conditions or earnings?—There has been a partial alteration: they were allowed to grow potatoes on a certain quantity of land in their master's fields, 1,000 yards in length, in a drill, generally; but I thought there was a considerable objection to that mode of hiring, because, in a very dry season, probably they had not a sufficiency, and sometimes it led to disputes about the quality of the ground in which they were planted; and I altered it on my farms, taking the risk and expense of the potato crop upon myself, to exempt them from the vicissitudes of the season or varieties of soil.

Do potatoes constitute a larger portion of food now than they did when you first recollect?—Not at all; they have an equal quantity of potatoes and of meal as formerly.

Do they ever give potatoes to their cows?—I should think not; the master is bound to feed their cows, so that they would be cheating their families or their pig. When I state 9*d.* as the cost of the cow, I conceive that should cover the whole cost of the cow during the year.

Do the families eat barley or wheaten bread?—Not very much of wheaten bread; it is generally two-thirds barley and one-third pease.

You speak of weavers receiving parish relief; are there a great number of them?—No manufactures; but there are weavers employed by the peasantry to make their yarn into cloth. It is only occasionally.

They do not weave for any master manufacturer, only for their poor neighbours?—Just so.

They are sometimes, you say, upon the poor rate?—That class of persons (not weavers particularly, but tradesmen generally,) is more upon the poor rate than the agricultural class.

How do you account for that?—Because they are not so well off, nor so regularly paid.

Do not they get higher wages?—Probably they do, but they are not so prevalent; and the wages are curtailed by the profits of the intermediate dealers, which does not apply to the hinds.

You think it is a better mode to pay in meal than in money?—I think it is a better custom for farm servants; it promotes their domestic habits, and gives them wholesome food.

What are the average wages the weavers receive?—I cannot say; I meant merely that kind of small tradespeople there are in most towns; as I mentioned, there is no regular manufacture.

Is this system regularly pursued throughout the county of Northumberland?—Yes; in all the northern counties of England, and the southern counties of Scotland.

As far as you have the means of knowing, does the poor rate at present come to about the same amount as formerly?—I should think it is rather reduced of late years, than increased, over the county generally. I cannot say, because wherever we find a small town or very uncertain wages, it is increased; but in an agricultural parish the rates are very low indeed.

It

It is increased in those towns, probably, by the manufacturing people?—It is ; and by unemployed labourers.

What is the size of the farms?—Some of the farms are very extensive ; those especially that comprise a great deal of hill ground, which is often combined with the low ground ; but perhaps the tillage farms are generally about 400 acres, or from that to 500 acres.

What is the average number of men to a tillage farm?—I conceive there is one regularly employed man hired through the year to 35 or 40 acres, exclusive of extra hands employed on other work.

What is the name of the parish in which you live?—Kirk Newton.

What do you estimate as the average value of land per acre thereabout?—That is a difficult question to answer, it varies so much. In the neighbourhood of the hills there may be 200 or 300 acres of arable land in a farm connected with mountain pasture. The land varies from the banks of the Tweed, where it is worth perhaps 45 s. an acre, to 15 s. Perhaps 25 s. an acre is about the average of the best district.

What is the population in your township?—I am not prepared to answer that question with great accuracy, but I should think about 300.

What is the acreage?—About 1,400 acres.

Do you conceive that a larger produce would be procured by the spade than by the plough?—I should suppose a larger produce might be procured, but at a much greater expense.

If they dig an acre with a spade, what would the cost of that be in your neighbourhood?—I do not know ; we have never thought of trying that, and I have not calculated it.

Will you state in what ward your parish is situate?—In Glendale Ward.

Have you very few persons out of employment?—Very few.

Should you consider that any Act of Parliament which would prevent your paying your hands in kind would be prejudicial to the morals and comforts of your labourers?—Undoubtedly.

Have the rents been lowered in your parish?—They have been lowered partially. In some places considerable abatements have been given ; and farms that have been out of lease have been generally let at a reduced rate.

Has the reduction been considerable?—In some instances considerable : in some instances a fifth ; in some a fourth.

Do you conceive that the capital in the hands of farmers in Northumberland has been on the increase or diminution?—It has been very much diminished. I believe the value of their stock has very much diminished.

Do you conceive that the farmer's spare capital that is not employed upon his farm, the little money he has had out in mortgages, or land he has purchased, during the prices preceding the year 1814, has been decreased ; that he has called in his mortgages and has sold his land?—Yes ; I have no doubt that his capital has been very much impaired.

Is the quality of the stock impaired, or not?—No, not the quality of stock ; but the value of stock is greatly lessened.

Is the quantity of corn produced lessened?—Yes, I should apprehend it is lessened ; as the farmer gets into difficulties he applies more severely to the productive powers of his land, and does less for it in return.

You say you have extra hands in the harvest time ; about what number of extra hands have you in harvest time?—We have an influx of Scotch and of Irish persons passing to and fro, and getting work as they can.

If you were to reckon them numerically, what quantity of hands for how many days in the course of the year have you to assist in harvest time?—I very often have perhaps 40 or 50 extra hands in the time of harvest, for about four weeks.

You say the capital of the farmer has been latterly very much diminished ; to what do you attribute that?—The reduction of the price of their produce, or rather the contraction of the currency.

Has the capital of the farmer been, by these means, so much diminished as to prevent his farming the land in as good a manner as he was used to do?—Yes, in many instances ; and in some instances to ruin him altogether : but before a farmer gives up a farm he takes all he can out of it, generally.

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Is there any difference in the number of hands employed on a farm from what there used to be?—Of course the number of extra hands must depend upon circumstances; if the harvest comes rapidly forward, there are more hands wanted for a time.

Are you prepared to say how many hands are ordinarily employed in the cultivation of 100 acres in your neighbourhood, including every description of labour, not including females?—I reckon that one regularly-hired hind, from one end of the year to the other, may be occupied upon each 35 to 40 acres. Then they have extra hands for hoeing turnips, and so on.

What is the ordinary number of persons employed to 30 or 40 acres?—I can hardly answer that question, because they are employed at one season and not at another. The great employment given to female labourers and boys is that part of the country is in preparing the land for turnips, gathering couch, and cleaning it. It is entirely a turnip district; and probably they are much better off than in other parts of the country, because it affords much employment to weak hands.

Is there a great reluctance in the poor labouring classes to apply for parish relief, except in cases of absolute necessity?—There is a reluctance in the agricultural population generally.

They do not contract early or improvident marriages?—Not generally; of course there are exceptions to that.

If you say that one man is sufficient for the cultivation of from 35 to 40 acres of land, what is the proportion of expense you would have to pay for extra hands, compared to the expense of that one man?—We should require two or three extra hands to each man who is steadily employed; but they are not in regular employment.

What, in the course of a year, would be paid for the assistance given to that one man, who is competent to the cultivation of that number of acres?—I do not know that I can answer that question; there is such a variety of cultivations employed.

As applied to corn land, what would be the proportion?—I should think probably about three women, boys, or girls might be employed over and above that man.

What would be the comparative expense for those hands?—I should think the labourer's earnings would go far to cover all the three.

Do the Scotch one pound notes circulate in your part of the country?—They do in some measure.

Do you think an injury would arise if that circulation was withdrawn?—It would be attended with very great inconvenience, and perhaps it would be almost impossible to do it; the collieries which supply the northern district are situated on the south of the border, and they bring their one pound notes to pay for coals.

Would not the withdrawing one pound notes naturally diminish the prices of commodities?—I believe it would have that effect.

You have stated that you employ extra hands; are those your own population, or not?—Generally our own population, except in the time of harvest. In the harvest we have Irish and Scotch labourers generally; but those are not employed until all the people of the county are taken up.

What is the township in which you live?—Milfield.

Has the population of that township increased since the last census, when it appeared to be 259?—I should not conceive it has much increased.

Do the Scotch bank notes circulate in your parish?—Yes, they do principally; the people are in the continual habit of interchange with the Scotch.

What proportion of the circulating medium within your township consists of Scotch bank notes?—I should suppose perhaps one-fourth or one-fifth of it; there are fairs or markets on either side of the border, and the people step from one side to the other without considering it; the circulation must go on the same as at the two ends of London Bridge.

Has that circulation been diminished by the law which renders it illegal?—Yes, I believe it has; because people that receive the payment in these one pound notes do not feel themselves always at liberty to put them into circulation; they have the trouble of sending them to some Scotch banker to get them exchanged.

Has that diminution produced any effect in respect to the state of the poor in that part of the country?—It produced a considerable inconvenience to the farmer, and consequently an effect on the labourer.

A beneficial

A beneficial or injurious effect?—An injurious effect.

Have the last two or three seasons been reckoned unfavourable, or otherwise?—They have been on a fair average since the year 1827; I think we have had an average produce in 1826, and 1827 it was not so.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Richard Mackenzie Bacon, Esq. is called in; and further Examined as follows:

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THE Committee understand you wish to be further examined; upon what points do you wish to give an explanation?—A question was put to me, whether I did not think that by facilitating the settlement of labourers from this country in the colonies, thereby reducing the price of labour, which is now exorbitant in those colonies, and by increasing the number of persons to consume the agricultural produce of those countries, a very large sum of money might not, within a certain portion of time, be saved to England? To which I answered, that that was too wide a question for me to answer off hand. I am now prepared to say it depends entirely upon the question, in which country labour and capital combined can be rendered most productive. The question of reduction of wages is merely a question of distribution, and I apprehend the financier has no concern with that; but part of the question may have regard to the aggregate of the production on which the expenses can be levied. The question of distribution is a question of happiness amongst the people, not a question for the mere financier in any way whatever.

Do you not think that the land in Van Diemen's Land is much more fertile than the sandy wastes which it is proposed to inclose in England?—That is an assumption that they are sandy wastes.

Do you not think they would have been cultivated if they had been worth the expense of cultivating?—That question is already answered in the statement of expenses attending inclosures, and bringing waste lands into cultivation, which does not apply to the plan proposed of the cultivation of waste land by paupers. I was asked a question which I find I answered: "Did you mean to state that you do not approve of the reduction of taxation?" It was towards the end of the proceedings, when the Committee was breaking up; and I gave a sort of general assent, that I did not conceive that reduction of taxation would very materially benefit the labourer. I have already stated the distinction I took. The reason why the reduction of taxation would not very materially benefit the labourer, arises out of the severe competition amongst that class, and not out of the general benefits which would of course arise from the reduction of taxation. All the reduction that has taken place since the conclusion of the war has obviously done nothing to benefit his condition. I was also asked whether there were no other means that I considered tended to the moral degradation of the poor besides those I had stated. I conceive that the non-residence of the clergy has very much tended to the demoralization of the poor, and I have particular ground. In the village in which I live, we have there a Catholic, an Anabaptist, and a population belonging to the Establishment; and (*about invidious*) not professing the Catholic religion, I cannot of course admit that its doctrines would be more likely to lead to moral consequences than those of the Church of England. But it is a certain fact, that in the offences committed in that village, the Catholics do not take the share that the Protestants do, in consequence, I believe, of the non-residence of the clergyman. We have a vast quantity of game preserved all round us; not in one particular parish, but all round the country. The consequence has been, a considerable number of poachers have been reared in our village, and have been transported from thence. I find, I believe I may say, without any exception, no Catholic has ever been guilty of that offence. We have a most exceedingly active, and beneficent, and able Catholic priest. There is an Anabaptist teacher, a man of the very lowest order, a man of no education nor any property, and in a wretched state of poverty; but the clergyman is non-resident, it being a corporate living, and it presents a singular instance. The corporation of Norwich receive the tithes through the hands of a Baptist. When they are let the clergyman gets 120*l.* or 150*l.* a year. The tithe may let for about 400*l.* a year. The person who collects them derives a benefit probably of from 50*l.* to 100*l.* a year out of it; and it is nearly all collected from the Catholics and Baptists. I must bear testimony to the morality of the Catholic population, and I conceive it arises from the superior efficacy of the ministry of the

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the Catholic clergyman, by his presence; although the clergyman of the English church is an exceedingly good man, but non-resident.

Do you mean that there is no curate residing?—No curate residing. He comes over once a week to do the duty; or when he can he visits the poor of the district.

He is paid by a lay corporation?—Yes; it is a lay impropriation.

They receive the tithes, and pay him as the curate?—Yes; they farm the tithe to an Anabaptist, who collects it from a Catholic proprietor principally. It is perhaps one of the most singular instances in the whole country.

Do you conceive the operation of the Game Laws is injurious?—That is one of the circumstances I wish to add to my examination. I have seen one of the most striking proofs of it. There is no question, that nearly all the thefts and all the depredations that arise in our village begin by poaching. I have seen them in numberless instances. Three years ago we had ten persons either punished or transported at one time, for one attack on Lord Kensington's property, fourteen miles off our village.

Do you not find a resident gentleman, as well as a clergyman, of use in preserving the morals of the people?—Unquestionably.

What do you think would be the state of morals in one of your domestic colonies, in the absence of any resident gentleman or farmer?—I do not apprehend that would be the case, for all those places must be in the neighbourhood of the residences of gentlemen.

Suppose it were on Bagshot Heath?—There is no question that that would be an inconvenience; but I apprehend there would be a provision for religious instruction. If the town were large enough, it ought to include the residence of a clergyman. In the colony at Frederick's Oord, which has been established by the government of the Netherlands, the best effects have been produced.

Till the colony got into a state that you could get a gentleman to reside there as well as clergymen, do you not think that the morals would be found deteriorated of the people aggregated there?—I do not think there would be any great aggregation. The surplus people might and would probably be settled in their own neighbourhood. In my neighbourhood there may be from two to five thousand acres of waste land over a surface of ten miles. Thus the people would be settled in the vicinity of towns, and only constitute an addition to the towns already placed there.

Do you not find that those persons who live at a distance from neighbourhoods are the most profligate people?—They generally settle there for the express purpose. I apprehend, that all persons who retire from society must have an object, and that object is generally bad where they resort to desert neighbourhoods. We find that people resort to our village for the advantage of the common; and in the extreme benevolence of the noble lord's family, resident, there is found an additional attraction. The rents of cottages are above all the villages around us. The cottages in our village bear a rent in the proportion of one-third above others, simply from these circumstances.

You stated that the living belongs to a corporate body, and that you have no resident clergyman; of what profession are the chief proprietors in your neighbourhood?—The chief proprietor is a Catholic; the next proprietor is a Baptist, who has been essential to the establishment of a chapel. There are comparatively few Protestants residing in the parish.

There are, probably, schools established for the education of the lower classes?—His lordship established a school on this principle: he educates 120 children, on one condition only; namely, that they shall be taken to some place of worship on the Sunday; leaving it to the parents of the children to take them where they please, and never interfering in the slightest degree in their religious instruction: the only condition is, that they shall go to some place of worship, for he will not have the labor of the week destroyed by the neglect and idleness of that day.

Of what principle is the master of that school?—A Catholic; but I ought to state that there is not the least effort made to proselyte the children in any way. If the noble founders knew that there was any effort made by the master, he would, I doubt not, be discharged instantly.

You stated that Mr. Falla has given to the public an account of very large produce that might be obtained by spade husbandry; and you stated, that you had for several years been inculcating upon the public the great advantages that would

be derived from spade husbandry; how do you account for the fact, that in a thing of such easy process as spade husbandry, which is known to all the gardeners in the kingdom, nobody has adopted the practice if it is found to be so extremely productive?—This has been one of the most unaccountable of all the circumstances which ever fell under my observation. I have published, at two different periods, in Mr. Falla's own words, his experiments, at a distance of three or five years; and I have strongly invoked the attention of the public to them, but never could succeed in any one instance. Why, I do not know.

Do you not think it is because the data on which Mr. Falla goes are very much controverted?—I can only say, had I any power to try the experiment, and were I interested in agriculture, I would do it, if it were only upon one rood of land; and if I found it succeed on that, I should apply it to a larger surface. A gentleman called upon me about two days before I left Norwich, and stated that he had seen an experiment of spade husbandry, and could confirm the statements; but I cannot give the facts.

Do not you conceive that one of the greatest delusions arises from these very partial experiments upon small spaces of land, or with some particular produce; reasoning from the data, that because true on one rood or one perch of land, in particular exposures, you can produce so much, therefore the results are generally in the multiplication, according to the extended quantity?—I merely state the fact, that such has been the proposition made by Mr. Owen to the grand jury of the county of Lanark, supported by Mr. Falla; but that forms no part of the plan I have submitted to the Committee.

Do you deny the fact, that large farms afford a greater clear profit than small farms?—No; I am satisfied that the production is greater on large farms than on small farms, from the division of labour. There is one analogy, as to spade husbandry, to be drawn from Mr. Coke's estate. When he held his agricultural meetings every year, he laid it down as a maxim, that if the whole kingdom were divided into concentric circles, one mile apart, every improvement, however clear it might be, did not extend more than one mile per annum. Taking the Northumberland mode of sowing turnips as an instance; supposing he exhibited that in the clearest manner to a meeting consisting of 4,000 persons, it would not extend more than one mile the first year; the second year there would be a circle of a second mile; and supposing the kingdom divided into concentric circles, as I have stated, the improvements would extend only in that ratio. Now if Mr. Falla's experiments are submitted to the same test, there is no wonder why they should be left untried. Mr. Coke could not for years introduce the Northumbrian mode of cropping turnips, though he shewed its great advantages; three fourths of the county of Norfolk have not even yet adopted it.

If the whole country were cultivated by spade husbandry, it would, of course, maintain a much larger population?—Mr. Owen, I think, states sixty millions; but I beg to say that spade husbandry forms no part of my proposition.

Do you suppose, that 600 acres being divided into two farms, that two of 300 acres would employ more men than three farms of 200 acres?—The larger the farm the smaller the number of men that would be employed upon it, owing to the better division of labour, and the application of better machines. I was asked generally as to the moral degradation of the agricultural classes, whether it proceeded from certain circumstances? To what I before stated I wish to add, that a great deal has arisen from the separation of the farmers from their servants; to avoid settlements, farmers have been very reluctant to admit their agricultural servants into their houses: this has produced a complete separation between the farmer and his man; and that chasm in society has occasioned their morals to be neglected, and has had a prodigious effect in demoralizing the labouring classes.

Do you believe that there used to be a great deal more friendly and confidential intercourse between the masters and the servants than exists now?—No doubt of it. When I was a boy I used to visit in a large farmhouse, where the farmer sat in a room with a door opening to the servants hall, and every thing was carried from the one table to the other. Now they will rarely permit a man to live in their houses; and it is in consequence a total bargain and sale for money, and all idea of affection is destroyed.

Although you do not give any opinion with respect to the advantage of spade labour, if it was to be substituted for the labour of the plough, or labour aided by machinery, do you think it would be very advantageous if the cottagers in general were induced generally to apply spade labour to such extent as they can

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Richard M. Bess, Esq., apply it, without interfering with the adequate application of their labour for the service of the farmers?—Undoubtedly.

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Do not you think in that case there would be a much larger produce, without the farmer being injured by the labourer being withdrawn from his service?—It entirely depends upon whether he is placed upon fresh soil. If you take a farm of 600 acres, and divide it into 10 farms, there would be a great increase of man to be supported, and smaller produce; but the taking a farm now under cultivation, and dividing it into small farms, would not add to the production, but only change the circumstances; you would take it from the one class of society and give it to another. The object is to rear up an intermediate class, and to decrease the competition of labourers.

Though you think that the subdivision of farms would not be calculated to produce a larger quantity of food, do you not think that the amount of population which would be found in smaller farms would, upon the whole, be more comfortably circumstanced than if there was that great difference which there is between occupiers of large farms and mere cottagers or servants employed by them?—The moral improvement would be immeasurable.

Do you not think that in proportion as the labourers are enabled to provide more subsistence for themselves, but not in such manner as to withdraw their labour from the farmers, there would be a beneficial effect produced with respect to the farmer, the labourer, and the public?—Unquestionably.

Supposing you were to establish the colonies you propose, should you not wish that they should be composed of all gradations of society; so that in fact, as well as it could be done, an equal quantity of labour should be provided for the wants of all?—Undoubtedly.

If that colonization was to be so constituted, do you think there would be likely to be any solid evil produced by such colonization?—I think, on the contrary, there would be great moral good produced.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Friday next, Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 18th Februarii, 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Robert Aglionby Slaney, Esq. a Member of the House of Commons, attending, is Examined, as follows:

R. A. Slaney, Esq.

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1831.

YOU are a Member of Parliament?—I am Member for Shrewsbury.

Have you turned your attention to the subject of the Poor Laws?—I have.

Have you done so generally, or have you done so with reference to any particular part of the country?—Generally; but more particularly with reference to one particular part of the law, and the practice of the law.

Has that reference to a particular part of the country?—Yes.

Have the goodness to state what that is to which your attention has been directed?—I was induced to turn my attention to what I conceive to be an abuse of the practice of the law in the southern districts of England, which appeared to me to have the effect of lowering the condition of the labourers, and lessening the natural value of their labour. Besides being greatly injurious to them in every way, it also appeared to me that it was extremely injurious to the interests of landed gentlemen residing in those districts; for it seemed much dearer to maintain the poor in the way they were maintained in some of the southern districts of England, than to adopt the better practice of the north, where men were well paid.

To what abuse do you allude?—There are three or four abuses which prevail in the southern districts of England. In the first place, they pay the rents of able-bodied persons out of the poor's rate; secondly, an allowance for the children (I am always speaking with reference to able-bodied persons); thirdly, making up the wages out of the poor's rate. This system was adopted in several of the southern

southern districts. The wages were made up to the number of a family, according to a fixed and invariable scale, varying only with the price of wheat; in others without a scale, but still upon the same bad principle. This prevailed in 16 or 18 of the southern counties; and I think, if a line was taken across the kingdom from Gloucester to Hull, every county to the south of that line would be more or less tainted with the practice I speak of.

Do you conceive the practice to be at present legal?—I conceive it to be illegal.

Will you state what, in your opinion, are its effects, first, upon the labourer?—The opinion I have upon the subject of the abuse of the Poor Laws in the southern counties, is embodied in the Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on that part of the Poor Laws relating to the employment or relief of able-bodied persons from the poor's rate, to which I beg leave to refer; that Report was in 1828. Circumstances have taken place since in the southern counties, which we are too well acquainted with, which have altered my opinion as to the practicability at the present time of carrying the measures recommended in that Report into effect, without some other means to assist them; if the recommendation of the Report had been acted upon at an earlier period, I think it would have been practicable.

Do any other measures of relieving the parish of the superfluous number of labourers occur to you?—I think, for the purpose of carrying into effect the recommendation of that Report, in getting back to the northern system of poor laws in the southern counties, it would be necessary to look for some mode of taking up the actual redundancy in those parishes.

What modes should you recommend to effect this object?—I think there would be two modes, one general, and the other local; there may be modes for taking up any general redundancy in agricultural districts; there also may be modes of taking up redundancy in particular districts. In the first place, as to the general mode of taking up redundancy, anything which would let loose agricultural capital, or capital to rural improvements, now fettered by restrictions, would have the effect of giving fresh employment in those districts. I consider that there are four or five different measures, each of which would have that effect, more or less.

Have the goodness to state those?—The first, I think, would be a General Inclosure Act, facilitating inclosures; so that, instead of having an expense of 600*l.* or 700*l.* to come for every distinct bill, there should be a general power in persons to do it for 30*l.* or 40*l.*, complying, at the sessions, with certain forms and regulations specified in the general Act. I know many instances where small commons, and perhaps even large wastes, would be inclosed and put into cultivation but for the difficulties of getting an Inclosure Act; also the consent of particular parties is necessary now, some of whom withhold their assent. An Act which would give a power for a certain proportion of the majority to bind the others, for an inclosure, would, in my mind, be useful and necessary. In cases of right of tithary, even one or two, perhaps, differing from the great majority of proprietors, can prevent an inclosure. I will not go into other particulars. The second would be a General Highway Act. I believe that a Member of the House of Commons, Mr. Portman, has moved for a Committee upon that subject, and is likely to carry it into effect.

What are the objects of the Highway Act?—I cannot exactly state what Mr. Portman's objects are; but those I should recommend (which I think are pretty nearly the same) would be, to commute all duty work for money payments; to permit the appointment of permanent stipendiary surveyors, instead of having an ignorant farmer, who is every year changed, and knows nothing of his duty: the consequence is, it is utterly neglected in many instances; and where it is not neglected, it is performed in a very irregular and improper manner. It is also impracticable often to make any improvement in the highways, or for different persons to join together to make one, without some facilities, which might be given by a General Highway Act, by which persons would be enabled to improve and make new roads. This would give new work, and be generally useful.

Do you refer to the compulsory power of passing through lands?—Yes, under proper regulations, I will mention an instance of the great increase of employment that would take place thereby, and of this particular sort of employment which we are now looking to. In the evidence given by Mr. M'Adam before Lord John Russell's Committee on Labourer's Wages, in 1824, he states, that if the cross roads were managed upon the scientific principles he has introduced on

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turnpike roads, the effect would be, in the first place, it would be much cheaper than it is now; but, in the second place, that the proportion of the whole amount which is raised for that purpose now is divided thus: that cartage takes three-fourths of the whole, and manual labour takes one-fourth. If, however, a scientific management of highways was general, and broken stone, which is the proper material, was used, it would exactly reverse the proportions; namely, that out of the whole expense raised three-fourths would be devoted to manual labour, and one-fourth to cartage; and this at the same time that the total expense would be less than it was before, and the roads would be better. He also states, that the labour which would be wanted would be wanted at the particular time of the year when there is a deficiency in the demand for employment; namely, in the winter and the spring. He states, thirdly, that it would not merely give employment to the men, but it would also facilitate employment being given to women and to children, and be that kind of work at which they might employ themselves without injury; because the breaking down of large stones would come to the men, and when broken to a certain size, the women, with a smart stroke of a hammer, would be enabled to break them again, and the children to hear their share, so as to introduce somewhat to rural districts the advantage which they have in the manufacturing districts, of all the members of the family doing something towards their maintenance. The third general measure which I think would be beneficial, would be a general Exchange Act, to facilitate exchanges between persons who have only a life interest in their several estates, under certain regulations. Your Lordships are aware that the clergy are enabled by statute to exchange, under the regulation of certain commissioners and under certain regulations, lands belonging to them for lands belonging to other persons, which are substituted in lieu of them. I have myself acted in the county as a commissioner (they generally take two or three neighbouring gentlemen), and I have seen the benefit of such exchanges in several instances; but it is impracticable, at present, for any persons who merely hold their lands for life to exchange without a special Act of Parliament. The expense of an Act of Parliament is so great that it does not take place once in a thousand times, when it would be beneficial to make the exchange, to straighten a watercourse, to alter a road, or exchange a field. If a power could be given, under due regulations to prevent abuse, to facilitate such exchanges where they were felt desirable, it would give much additional employment. At present proprietors are prevented by the having in each case to go for a separate Act of Parliament. The fourth would be (but this is more complex a great deal) a simplification and clearance of titles of real property, and of the mode of conveyance of real property. This is now in progress by the bills which have been brought in under the recommendation of the Commissioners appointed by the King's Government, and it is to be hoped will be carried into effect. I venture to point out that in many instances there is an estate which, in consequence of some flaw in the title or some difficulty in making out the title, remains on sale for years, and all that time there is no one employed, for no one has an interest in improving it, and all the work which should be done upon that estate is lost; and it is a common saying, if you see a house in ruins, or an estate in a very bad condition, to say, it is in the Court of Chancery, or law. Again, the conveyances of real property are at present so complex, that to subdivide any property into small portions, by which each proprietor would have an interest in improving his share very greatly, is prevented. A great difficulty exists in this way. This certainly would not give so much immediate employment as the others I have ventured to state, but still I think it would be of great consequence to the country. The fifth general head I would beg to mention would be a measure which should, on a proper basis, facilitate the exchange and fixed commutation of tithes, both as regards lay impropriators and those that are held by the church. I have had opportunities of seeing in the country frequently two properties close together, and the property on which the right of tithe existed, more especially when gathered in kind, was not cultivated in the way the next property was; and I have frequently seen, when a property had become free from tithe by the proprietor being enabled to purchase the tithe, a fresh stimulus given to the employment upon that particular spot. I have now ventured to enumerate to your Lordships what appear to me to be the general modes by which the redundancy of the population in rural districts may be relieved; I now turn to those which I think may be considered as local modes for taking up the redundancy. The first that I would venture to mention would be spade farms; but I beg leave to

say that these, as far as I have considered the subject, would not be on the same principle I have heard them put upon. I should venture to suggest, where there is a redundancy of labourers (we will suppose that of a hundred labourers there are ten for whom you cannot find employment at independent wages, supporting their family without assistance), then I would suggest, that to those ten there should be let five or six acres each, to be cultivated by spade husbandry; that there should be no subdivision of this, no under-letting, and that they should agree to be employed for themselves alone, except during the harvest month; that is, that they are not to work for hire, but on their own land only. I suppose them to be at a low fixed rent, so that they should have the stimulus which is found so important in every other class of life, of seeing that their condition is bettered according to their own industry and their own efforts, which would be widely different from having them working for a parish in any form or way. I suppose that in the first instance it would be necessary for the parish to give them an outfit, by erecting the small buildings which were necessary, and giving them sufficient assistance to begin; but that after a little while, from calculations I have made, and which I have shown to persons conversant with the subject, they would be able to maintain their families without assistance from the parish, and to pay a small fixed rent, whatever it was. And those ten men being taken out of the market for labour in that particular parish (for I go on the supposition they are to work for themselves alone), the wages of all the other ninety would rise, and thereby their condition would be improved, and they would come into the situation of the labourers in the north of England. I am merely supposing this to be a temporary plan during the transition from that which I consider a bad state of poor law to a good state; from the state of that in the southern districts to that of the county of Northumberland. I do not propose this should be done with reference to any except those now in redundancy in the parishes, and who have been brought into that situation in a great measure through the neglect and the fault of other persons, the managers of those rates; and I propose, at the same time, that you pass a declaratory Act, absolutely prohibiting the continuance of the system with reference to any fresh applicants; this proposition, therefore, being merely applicable to the persons who are at present redundant. In this case it would not be necessary to build cottages at all; they are ready built: that would be a great saving of expense. If you are enabled to take 24 acres, and could have a small barn, shed, or such small edifice as might be necessary for thrashing out the corn, placed in such a situation as to do for them all, taking it in rotation, that would lessen the expense very much: the main expense, that of building cottages, would be entirely saved. I would beg to point out the difference between this and the plan which has been spoken of, that of building cottages on waste. If you build cottages on waste, however advantageous, unless you take down the cottages from whence the labourers go, you absolutely give a stimulus to the redundancy, instead of checking it; for by building cottages you merely erect fresh houses in each of which there will be a fresh family. I do not say whether that would be right or not, but merely point out the difference between the two.

Have you any experience in the result of spade cultivation?—I have not myself, but I have spoken to several persons who have, and who have calculated the proceeds from spade husbandry, applied by persons who had their own interests to stimulate them to it; and from their calculations I am enabled to say, that a man and his family would be enabled to maintain themselves on five or six acres of ground very well; but it would be necessary to lay down a rotation of crops, in order to direct his mind to that which would be best for himself. An ignorant man, who took it up in the first instance, would probably exhaust the land in two or three years, and it would become in a bad state; but by having a simple plan laid down, to point out what would be beneficial for him, he might go on very well. Also, in the economy of manure, it would be of great consequence to have some directions to point out the best mode in which the land can be managed. I venture also to say, that this has been tried, in a most ungenial situation, in Holland, where it has succeeded in a great measure, although not perhaps so far as has been proclaimed; yet it has succeeded so far in a much worse situation, that it gives every reason to suppose it will succeed here in a better. I will venture to make one observation in favour of such a plan, that a man's wife and family would be able to assist him, because there are a great number of agricultural manipulations that may be carried on by the assistance of a woman and her children, more especially in spade husbandry. I will venture to say also, that

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supposing the person should not be able to maintain himself completely (upon the supposition that it costs about 26*l.* a year to maintain a man and his family), if he could maintain himself within five or six pounds, whatever he did would be a clear gain; for at present he depresses the condition of all the other labourers, and his whole cost comes out of them or the parish; also, this would be merely during a few years, till we get back to a better system, and not as a permanent measure. The second would be, the location of redundant labourers upon wastes, in which they go from one spot to another, where, I suppose, employment cannot be found by any means in the parish where they live. I do not feel a doubt that if a General Inclosure Act was carried into effect, an advantageous mode of employing them in that way might be found; but in that case I would venture to say, that the cottages from whence they went ought to be taken down, or most assuredly there would be fresh persons come into those, and it would be merely a removal of them at a great expense, and perhaps increase the evil. I will venture to refer your Lordships to the evidence of Mr. Hodges, the present member for Kent, before the Emigration Committee in 1827, upon that point.

Do you apprehend that the spade husbandry could be introduced with any prospect of advantage upon poor stiff clay lands?—I think that in proportion as the land was bad, just in that proportion the prospect of success would be less; but I think in any case it would be successful: by successful I do not mean that in every instance a man would be able to maintain himself entirely, but a man would be able to maintain himself more nearly than he does now; he would act willingly, and consider his condition improved; and if he gained only 10*l.* a year towards his maintenance, that would be a clear gain to all the other labourers of the parish. This is an experiment which, supposing it to be tried, I believe the poor would embrace with the greatest pleasure; it is not one against which they have any prejudice, whether right or wrong, as they have against emigration in some instances; but they would be most anxious to try it, and so anxious that I am perfectly convinced that if in a parish in which, if there were a hundred workmen, there were ten, who probably would be the worst, who were out of work, and this offer were made to any, often ten of the best would be willing to adopt it in the first instance: the benefit would be equal to the country, whether you take the ten best or the ten worst; if you take the ten best it would operate to improve the condition of the rest, and raise their wages.

Is it not supposed the population is most redundant in the clay districts of the counties of Sussex and Surrey?—I am inclined to think it is somewhat redundant in every district where this bad system of poor laws has been prevalent, and that it is quite as much in Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire and Wiltshire. I fear, in the rich Vale of Aylesbury, in Buckinghamshire, which is very fine land, an excess of labourers beyond employment exists; but no doubt the labouring population is very numerous in the districts referred to.

Do you intend that the labourers located on those five acres should pay rent?—Yes; I think they should pay a low fixed rent, and that they should know that the rent is not to be raised as they improved the land, but that they should have the benefit of the improved condition, for then they would struggle the more.

Then the difference of the value must be made up in some way or other?—Yes, it must.

If they stand rent-free on average land, it would be worth 30*l.* an acre, the fee of the land?—It may be so.

To each individual family should you not then be applying 150*l.* for its location?—I will suppose the land is worth 20*s.* an acre now, and that they paid 10*l.* an acre for it; then the question is, whether they would not be able to pay the whole 20*l.* in very many instances, almost every instance in the course of three years: but I will suppose they pay only 10*s.*, then there will be on every six acres 3*l.* per annum to be made up; then I balance against that the 26*l.* it has cost the parish hitherto to maintain them; there also would be the interest of the outlay, whatever it was, to let them start with, to be considered.

If they were inclined to emigrate, could not you convey them to the place where the emigration may be destined at a much cheaper rate?—That would depend upon a nice calculation between the two plans, which would, in some instances, I think, turn in favour of the spade farm, and in some instances in favour of the emigration plan. I am far from thinking that in many instances the emigration plan might not be the best, but I think that this would be the most popular, and that

that it would be an object, at a little increase of expense, to get them to work with us; and in some districts I am afraid that the people themselves are tainted against emigration.

You mean this plan of the home location only as a temporary measure?—Merely as a transitory measure, for some years, till we get back to a good state.

You would not object to their emigrating if they were willing?—Far from it, I would give them every means.

Both for the sake of the colonies and for themselves?—For themselves and for the country, undoubtedly I would. I am merely venturing to mention these modes to your Lordships, because I am afraid that with them all we shall not have too many.

With regard to the building of cottages on waste lands, might not that be liable to jobbing?—I think it might in some instances. In a spade farm there would be no cottages to build. In the case of their being built on waste lands, and the old cottages taken down, that must be done at the expense of the parish, who must be enabled to raise the money for those special purposes; and in the Act there must be regulations as to the mode by which waste must be checked.

Would it not be difficult, and rather contrary to the general principles of legislation, to pass an Act of Parliament to pull down a cottage belonging to any individual?—I think it might be done voluntarily, or by paying them for it.

Do you think that the landlords of the cottages would generally throughout England consent to pull their cottages down unless they could get repaid for them? I think in those parishes of the south of England, where alone the evil is great, and where they must be aware this is a sort of remedial measure to lessen the weight of a great burden upon their own immediate tenants and themselves, they would; I mean the gentlemen.

Are you not aware that a considerable number of cottage proprietors are retired mechanics and public-house keepers?—That is a great objection, and one of considerable weight, and one that has induced me to think that the spade farms on the spot would be preferable.

A proprietor would have a right to pull his cottage down now, but you do not find that that practice, however good it would have been, has been followed?—I think there would be one difference. I have supposed all along there is a declaratory Act for the purpose of returning to a good system, and an end of a bad system of paying cottage rents out of the poor's rates: as soon as the practice of paying rents out of the rates had ceased, there would be an end to the extra value of the cottages derived from this source.

Do you not consider that an increased production of the articles of consumption would be useful to the country?—Undoubtedly.

Is not an increase of population desirable, if labour can be profitably employed?—There is, I think, no doubt of that.

Do you not consider that one of the causes of the distress of the southern counties of England is their having more labourers than they can profitably employ?—Certainly.

Has that population grown up by the unnatural stimulus which has been given by the abuse of our Poor Laws?—Yes. My humble judgment is, after looking at the subject with the greatest care, that we never ought to interfere with the progress of population, on the one side or the other; that the measure proposed is nothing but putting things as they ought to have been left, neither to stimulate on the one hand, nor to retard on the other; for I believe the proportion of population to employment, under a Government where education prevails, will adjust itself much better than we can do it.

Do not you consider the late practice, under the misapprehension of the Poor Laws, to have been a positive interference and encouragement of population?—I think it has had that effect, undoubtedly.

If an increased production would be beneficial to the country, and if an increased population would be desirable if labour could be profitably employed, would not, in your opinion, the extension of the surface upon which the labour is to be employed be an essential means of relieving the country from its present difficulties?—That is a question which requires great consideration to answer. It appears to me to ask, whether it would be better to lay additional capital on an extension of surface for agricultural purposes, or to lay the same capital on that already in cultivation? Now it may happen in many instances it may be better to lay an additional layer of capital on that land now cultivated, than to cultivate additional

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waste land. That will depend on a number of considerations which it is impossible to put into an answer, and on various considerations which I think it would be almost impracticable to enter into without going into great length.

Do not you conceive that the transition of manufactures from the west and the southern parts of England, which used to exist there, into the north, has been one of the great means of producing a redundant population in the part of the country where the manufactures have been shandoned?—I think that has had a small effect.

You stated that the home colonization, you think, would be only a mere temporary remedy?—I proposed it with a view to being a temporary remedy.

Do not you think, if the system of home colonization was introduced, it would completely remove the feeling which exists in some parts of England for emigration?—I think that if they were to have cottages offered to them on wastes, and were to have sufficient to set out in life, they would probably prefer it to emigration in most instances, but it would depend in some measure on the nature of the land and the nature of the situation. They are sometimes very acute in finding out whether they should be able to do well there or not; if they found they should be able to do well, I dare say they would prefer it.

You stated that you should propose, that, in case of the erection of new buildings, the cottages in the redundant parishes should be removed; are you aware that farmers and occupiers of land, and others, have speculated in erecting buildings for their labourers, on account of rents being paid solely out of the poor rates?—I have no doubt of that.

Are you aware that it is contrary to law, paying the rents of those cottages out of the poor rates?—No doubt; it is so adverted to in the Report to which I have referred.

Will you have the goodness to state any further remedies which may occur to you?—I have stated, in the first place, spade farms, with the cottages remaining where they are; the second, location, or having cottages built on the waste, at a distance; the third would be emigration and colonization, each of which are separate from the other; emigration being merely paying them to go out somewhere where they may be able to take care of themselves, as was done to the United States, in Kent, by Mr. Hodges; and colonization, as it has been described in Mr. Wilmot Horton's Emigration Reports and publications upon that subject, to Canada or other colonies. The latter, I think, would be in many instances highly beneficial.

Are there any other local remedial points to which you wish to refer the Committee?—There is one other, which would arise from the return to a good system, which would check the practice of paying the rents of cottages out of rates, and other abuses, that should be in any remedial law upon the subject: there should be a simple form of abstract of the expenses of every parish laid down, and it should be obligatory upon the parish officers to publish that once a year in the same form, so that you might compare the particular heads of expense of one year with the same heads of expense of the preceding year, and be able to check any one of them which happens to exceed in amount that of the preceding year, or to look into the cause of it. Also these expenses should be separated from each other in such a way that they could not introduce any of those charges which were irregular, so that the magistrate would reject them.

Has the magistrate any power?—The magistrate has power, on passing the account at Lady-day, to strike out any that are "unfounded." Then, that a short summary or abstract of the parish expense should be made for each hundred and each county, and one copy go up to the Secretary of State for the Home Department for each county, so that it would be seen how the increase was occasioned: the magistrates, proprietors, and rate-payers, who took an interest, would be able to see what the increase was, and to check it. Another would be, the passing of a bill which I have brought in, annexed to that for preventing abuses of the Poor Laws, for better rating tenements under a certain annual value; that is, making the owner of the tenement under a certain annual value, which I have proposed to be 12*l.*, liable to the poor's rates, instead of the occupiers. I have found great complaints from many parts of England, that it is the habit, particularly in the vicinity of towns, for persons to build rows of small houses. They do not pay any poor's rate upon them, because, by the present law, it is to be levied on the occupier; he excuses himself on the ground of poverty, and pays none; and the owner screws out from him, in consequence, a very high rent. This has the effect

of attracting, to build small tenements, much greater capital than would be otherwise turned to it; the consequence of which is to multiply those pauper dwellings, not only unfairly to the other property, as not being rated, but also to increase the number of poor, by this artificial stimulus, in particular spots, and to depress the condition of the labourers there. I have instances from various parts of the kingdom, of property being worth 10*l.* and paying the rate; that same land was divided into nine tenements of 10*l.* each, and brought in no poor rate at all afterwards; but the poor suffered from the depression of the rate of wages, the numbers being there thus increased.

If a matter of that sort was proposed, do you not think it would be proper to give the landlord the right of re-entry at a cheaper rate than he has now upon his property?—That has been proposed; but one difficulty there is in cottage property is the difficulty of recovering it back again. I am rather in favour of keeping up that difficulty; I think it throws a difficulty in the way of multiplying too fast that species of property.

Have you any other remedy to propose?—No; except that of returning to the law as it is administered in the north of England, firmly and steadily.

Do not you think that the great improvement and division of labour, taking a great part of the work from the women and children in the cottages in the south, has been also another means of deteriorating the condition of the labourers in the south, much work which used to be done in the cottages being now done in the factories?—That may have had a small effect; but I am not aware that there was much done, except a little home manufacture for their own use, except in Buckinghamshire, in the lace trade; there I think they may have been injured by the lace machines.

Do you not think this has been an evil of long standing; that labour has been very ill paid in the south, comparatively to the payment for it in the north?—No. I am of opinion it may be traced distinctly to the period when the price of wheat fluctuated extremely, from the beginning of the French war down to 1815; and I could show that the wheat fluctuated 100 per cent. in one year, then went down 50, and then went up 150. Wages could not fluctuate in the same way as wheat; and the magistrates, from the necessity of the case, in consequence took up this mode of relieving the men. In the south that became permanent; whereas in the north they used it only as a transitory measure.

You have said that increased production is very desirable, and of course would tend to increase the fund for labour. If it was possible to render any facilities towards raising money upon entailed estates, for drainage, in this country, the effect of which, though certainly beneficial, is still of distant and prospective issue, do you not conceive that great advantage and great increase of labour would result?—I feel no doubt that drainage is one of the most important improvements which can be made in agriculture, and that the system of Mr. Elkington is one of the most valuable parts of it; but my humble judgment is, that it ought to be left to individual exertion, and that Government should not meddle with it; it does not strike me that they could beneficially interfere in the matter. I beg to submit the heads of a plan for preventing the abuses of the Poor Laws in the southern districts, and for better rating tenements.

[*The same are delivered in and read.*] *Vide* Appendix (A.) and (B.) to this day's Evidence.

Have you any Abstract of Returns of the number of poor persons belonging to certain parishes, and the number of able-bodied persons, being parishioners, relieved or assisted from the poor rates, whether by taking up allowance in parish work, or for other purposes?—I have. I have made a deduction from it.

[*The same is delivered in and read.*] *Vide* Appendix (C.) to this day's Evidence.

How have you taken those parishes?—I took six parishes of nearly the same proportion, as nearly as I could take them, in each. I took six in the southern districts, which I understood were in a bad state. On inquiring into those in the north, I did not find that the practices referred to prevailed. I have made a calculation as to the increase of the poor's rates, made from returns; also the comparison of eight counties on a good system, and eight on a bad system.

[*The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:*]

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COMPARISON of Eight Counties on good System, and Eight on bad.

North Counties -	{	York, E. R.	-	-	-	Population, 2,070,368.
		- N. R.	-	-	-	
		- W. R.	-	-	-	
		Lincoln	-	-	-	
		Westmorland	-	-	-	
		Cumberland	-	-	-	
Eight S. Counties -	{	Northumberland	-	-	-	Population, 2,057,665.
		Durham	-	-	-	
		Kent	-	-	-	
		Sussex	-	-	-	
		Surrey	-	-	-	
		Oxford	-	-	-	
	{	Wilt	-	-	-	Poor Rate, £.1,511,890.
		Berks	-	-	-	
		Norfolk	-	-	-	
		Dorset	-	-	-	
			-	-	-	
			-	-	-	

Double, with same population.

Proportion of Cost of Poor per Head in Population, taking Year 1825, and Population Return of 1831 :

For 12 Southern counties, with scale and bad system	-	16s. 6d. per head.
12 Northern, and good system	-	6s. 6d. per head.

Have you any reason to believe that in those counties where the poor rate is double the amount of the northern counties, the condition of the labourers in those counties is so good as that of the labourers in the north?—I am confident it is much worse.

Among the different plans suggested by you, one is for domestic colonization on a large scale; have the goodness to state in what way you think that could be most beneficially brought about?—I think it might be brought about by parishes having power to raise money perhaps upon the mortgage of their rates, and to lay it out, under certain restrictions, in erecting dwellings and commencing the cultivation of land, and giving the benefit to the unfortunate and the redundant labourers, who will undertake to accept it, and remove from the parish to another spot.

Are you of opinion that there are several places which might be found where any part of the redundant agricultural population would be glad to be so settled? I have no doubt they would be glad to be so settled in many instances; that is, the poor themselves.

Do you not conceive, to make this plan available to any extent, it must be done at once on a large scale?—No; that does not strike me. I think it would be equally beneficial if done only in respect of one or two parishes.

Would it not be desirable it should be done on a large scale, if it was intended that a great benefit to the country in respect of redundant labour should be effected?—Undoubtedly, if the plan be beneficial, the more extensively it be done the better; but I think there would be a great difficulty in doing it on a large scale, on account of the difficulty of finding fertile land, and of finding the funds. I think it would be desirable not to do it on too extensive a scale at first.

Do you think any plan could be conveniently pointed out to enable different parishes to unite together to effect it to a considerable extent?—I think there might.

Do you think that there would be any difficulty found to arise, in respect of the waste lands, to prevent the parishes taking advantage of it?—I think that it might be done by Act of Parliament. It will be a question of expense; a difficulty would arise as to taking down the cottages, which would be unpopular, and in many instances perhaps difficult.

Are you not aware that in many cottages in the agricultural districts more than one family is resident?—I am afraid that is the case.

Supposing one family was subtracted from those cottages, do you think it would be practicable to take down those cottages which were left?—If one family was left to occupy them, they would remain with benefit to the population; and it would be of course a benefit to abstract one of the families, supposing the numbers to be redundant.

When a cottage having two families, one was removed away, would not that be giving comfort probably to two families?—No doubt.

Supposing

Supposing those domestic colonies were to be established to a considerable extent, what sort of intermixture of population would it be desirable to introduce with respect to the size of the tenements and the description of persons to be so located?—I have not turned my attention to that point sufficiently to be able to give an answer to it.

Are you aware whether the same system of rating exists in the northern parts of England as in the southern. In the south the rating is generally on two thirds of the value?—I think that prevails throughout England; that it is a rating not on the rack-rent but on a certain proportion.

Are you much acquainted with parishes uniting in one workhouse?—Yes, I am, in one or two instances; we have several in Shropshire to a considerable extent.

Are you acquainted with the united parishes in the neighbourhood of Ellesmere and Oswestry?—Yes; I reside in one of the contributing parishes.

Do you happen to know whether those houses are popular or otherwise among the labourers?—They are very unpopular.

Have you reason to believe that in many instances deserving labouring cottagers are subject to hardships in consequence of the treatment they receive in those united houses?—No. I have no doubt individual instances of hardship exist; but I believe that the difficulty the poor have of going into those houses is beneficial to them; it stimulates them to exertion, and I believe it is beneficial to them in the mass, that they labour much harder and are much more unwilling to apply in the parishes where a workhouse exists than in the parishes where it does not.

The magistrates have a power now by law to redress any just complaints in respect to those houses?—The magistrates' power, I think, is limited in parishes where they have a local Act of that kind; but I am of opinion, that at the same time a hardship may arise from that, that benefit arises from the magistrate's power being limited; for if the magistrate had not had half so much power, I think the mass of the population in the southern counties would have been much better off than they are now. There is a united set of parishes in Shropshire who have just adopted a plan which I consider beneficial. I look upon it, the congregation of a number of parishes together is an evil; for this reason, that it renders each person individually less careful of the state of the peasantry in his own particular district. He reasons sometimes, it does not signify to me much whether they are well or ill off, the parishes will be rated one with the other, and I shall only pay my share; so that the stimulus of self-interest is taken away. On the other hand, I think that the having a house of industry is a great benefit in deterring idle people from coming. In Shropshire there is a set of united parishes who have a central house of industry, to which they can send persons, who may have the produce of their earnings, and other poor persons. Each parish pays in proportion to the number of paupers sent to that house of industry; thus each parish has an interest in lessening the number sent there. I may venture to say, that I think it would be a very great benefit, in many instances, if the subdivision of parishes could take place. Down to the period, I think, of Charles the Second, townships could separate into separate parishes, since that they have not had the power to do so. In many instances I think it would be beneficial that they should have the power; for where they have a small division, one or two intelligent men can manage that division with advantage, but where it is a large district, that which is every body's business is often neglected.

Do you happen to know how the payments are regulated in the houses you refer to?—I believe that they are regulated by a board of directors, who are chosen by the body of rate-payers, a certain portion to each parish.

Was it regulated at the time the house was built, or is it regulated by the proportion of the poor sent by each parish?—In general it is fixed by the proportions regulated when the Act passed, which is a highly unjust mode, as it appears to me, for the proportions of poor and rated value have varied, and they are still paying the same quota to it as they did formerly; but the mode I stated corrects that.

You have stated that the advantage of those houses is, that the poor are inclined to exert themselves more that they may not be sent there; has it not the effect of inducing the parish officers to be more willing to send them to the united house than they otherwise would be?—They make it a rule not to give out pay except in peculiarly hard cases. I think upon the whole this is beneficial to

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the poor, and I beg to refer to the example of Liverpool, as annexed to the Report I have referred to.

Do you not conceive that the effect on such a dense population as at Liverpool, is different from that of a scattered country parish?—It may be so; but I think that the rule, that they will not give aid to able-bodied persons unless they come to work entirely for the overseer at a particular spot, is, upon the whole, beneficial; it is the practice of the north of England too.

When you speak of its being beneficial, do you mean that it is beneficial in its tendency to keep down the rate, or in its giving more comfort to the persons who are burdensome to the rates?—It has a tendency to keep down the rates; but as it has also a tendency to lessen the number of applicants, it induces them to depend upon their own efforts.

Do you think, then, that it is beneficial to the poor not to be dependent upon parish relief?—Highly beneficial.

Is it not your opinion that the labouring classes are in a much better condition when they place no dependence on parish rates, than when they are in the habit of applying for relief on any unexpected calamity coming upon them?—Undoubtedly; the less they look to the rates, and the more they look to their own exertions, the better they are off in every instance.

Have you reason to suppose that many of the parishes united in these houses are very much discontented with the manner in which they are forced to contribute to them?—I think they are, with the proportions being fixed at a period 30 or 40 years ago; the proportions of different parishes having advanced in a different ratio, they are dissatisfied with the bearing of the payment upon them.

Is it your opinion that the poor who belong to those parishes which are joined together in those united workhouses, are as well taken care of, and as well satisfied with belonging to those parishes, as those which belong to parishes which have nothing to do with those united houses?—I think, upon the whole, they are better taken care of when they come to the house; but they had rather belong to a parish which has no workhouse than one which has, because they say they are more easy with them in the one than the other.

Do you contemplate any alteration in the law of settlement as advantageous both to the poor and to the rate-payer?—I have not much turned my attention to that subject, but I think there ought to be a simplification and condensation of that law and all the laws relating to the poor; they are spread over many volumes, and in many thousand decisions. With respect to the Law of Settlement, I think the Scotch system of three years industrious residence, or something of that kind, would be best; but I speak without much confidence in my opinion.

In preference to settlement by birth?—I think in preference to settlement by birth; the difficulty of tracing is so great.

Has it occurred to you, as a magistrate in Shropshire, that there has been inconvenience and litigation occasioned by the practice which has prevailed of late years, of not allowing a constructive settlement by service, in the manner in which it used to be allowed in past times?—I have acted but a short time as a magistrate, but I have been acquainted with the way in which the law has been administered, and the nicest possible questions arise as to settlement by service. I must state, that casuists can hardly draw a distinction between dispensation and dissolution. I think it would be desirable to put an end to that difficulty.

Does not it appear to you that the settlement by hiring and service is a very objectionable ground of settlement in many respects?—I think it is objectionable, as the present law causes much perjury.

The question does not refer to the legal and technical difficulties; but do you not think that it is objectionable, as it fetters the free agency of the labourer very considerably, and on other grounds?—I am not sure that I agree in that opinion. It appears to me that the just ground of a man's being chargeable at a place is, that place having received the benefit of his labour when he was strong; that where a man has slept only 40 nights, or worked only a year there, should bear the burden, would be unjust.

Do you think one year a sufficient measure of his services?—Certainly not.

You consider a residence of three or more years as a much preferable ground of settlement to a yearly hiring and service?—Much more so, as was recommended in the Report of the Committee of the other House of Parliament in 1817. I have made a calculation of the number of persons receiving from or depending upon the poor rate, taken from Returns which have been made to Parliament, and
deductions

deductions from those Returns. I calculate that in England and Wales, in 1790, it was one in twelve in the whole population; in 1800 it had risen to one in nine, and now it amounts to one in seven; that in every county round London it is one in four; that in the county of Sussex it is nearly one in two: this includes the children dependent upon their parents. I have made a comparison of the expenditure upon the poor for three years, namely, 1814, 1815 and 1816, and the year 1830; that is the change in a period of 15 years, after allowing for the difference in the price of corn between the two periods; calculating that the price of corn affects two-thirds of the expenditure laid out upon the poor, and allowing 24 per cent. for the increase in the population during that period, then the comparative expenditure was augmented one-seventh, or near 15 per cent. But the population has not increased in the southern districts in that ratio, where the rates have been most increased, but in the manufacturing districts, where there is little increase of rate. Allowing for this, the increase will be nearly 20 per cent., or one-fifth, to be deducted from the rent and expenditure, more than it was in 1815. That is taken from a series of calculations, in which I am pretty confident I am right; it may vary a little, but the general import of it, I am satisfied, is true; and I would point your Lordships' attention to the magnitude and extent of the evil.

Do you not think that injury has arisen to the labouring classes from making the actual payment of 10*L*. a year rent give a settlement, and thereby discouraging landlords from accommodating cottagers, and enabling them to keep a cow?—I think it may, in some instances; but that assumes that the keeping of a cow is beneficial to a cottager. That is certainly an important question, but upon which persons who have turned their attention to it differ: some persons think, that if they can go on well with one cow it is beneficial to them; but the risk of the loss of a cow is too great for a poor man. I am of opinion, upon the whole, that the keeping a cow is certainly a benefit; but there is something to be said on the other side.

The question refers, not to the keeping a cow alone, but to the cultivating a certain quantity of land?—No doubt of it.

Have you turned your attention to the effect which the Bastardy Laws have in the encouragement of early marriages?—I have, somewhat.

What opinion have you formed?—I think that they certainly want revision; that the present mode is a very bad one, and especially the abuse which takes place from it, in consequence of the management of ignorant overseers, who compel a man to marry a woman who is pregnant, thereby entailing the maintenance of four or five children, instead of one, on the parish.

What are the best arrangements you have seen in the mode of keeping the parish books, for showing where the payment went for rent?—I do not know that I have seen that, where the money went to pay rent; I have seen one or two forms for keeping parish accounts, which I think it would be highly beneficial to introduce: I will send a copy of one to the Committee.

[*Mr. Slaney is requested to furnish the same.*]—See Appendix (D.) to this day's Evidence.

Have you ever seen an instance of one in which the name of the person was put down, the next column showing the residence of the person relieved, and the next column stating the rent of the tenement the pauper paid?—No, I do not recollect having seen one in which the rent the pauper paid was inserted; I see no objection to it, always supposing the rent is not paid by the parish. With respect to the condition of the peasantry in the southern parts of England, I think there is one cause which has not yet been sufficiently adverted to; that is, the scarcity of fuel. I calculate the difference of wages between a man in the south, where fuel is dear, and another in a district where fuel is cheap, is a shilling a week; therefore, to be on a par, the man in the south ought to have a shilling a week more than the other; and that a landlord ought not to consider himself as paying unreasonably to his workmen, where he pays them a shilling a week more in the south than in Shropshire and Yorkshire; but I fear they have often a shilling a week less, instead of more.

Do you not believe that the rent of tenements is dearer in the south than in the north?—The nominal rent is dearer, because there the parish officer comes in to be one of the persons to pay the rent, which he does not in the north, and the poor men bid against each other for cottages. Whether they pay their rent is another question.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

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Appendix (A.)

A BILL (as amended on re-commitment) to prevent Abuses of the Poor Laws, by declaring and amending the Law relating to the Employment and Payment of able-bodied Labourers from the Poor Rates.

Appendix (A.)

WHEREAS by an Act made in the forty-third year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, intituled, "An Act for the Relief of the Poor," it was enacted, that the overseers of the poor shall take order from time to time for setting to work the children of all such whose parents shall not by the said overseers be thought able to keep and maintain their children, and for setting to work all such persons, married or unmarried, having no means to maintain themselves, and using no ordinary and daily trade of life to get their living by; and also to raise competent sums of money for and towards the necessary relief of the lame, impotent, old, blind, and others being poor and not able to work: And whereas the purposes of the said Act have been in very many parishes departed from and perverted, to the great injury as well of the poor as of all persons rated to and paying the poor's rate, by making to able-bodied labourers certain allowances and payments in increase of the wages received by them for their labour, such allowances and payments being varied with reference to their being married or unmarried, or to the number of their children, or under other circumstances, contrary to the true intent and meaning of the said Act; by which means the wages of able-bodied labourers, instead of being paid to them by their employers, are paid by the several other persons charged to the poor rates, and such rates are thereby increased and misapplied to a very great and unjust amount; and by the said practices the employers are often induced to offer lower wages than they otherwise would do, and the labourers, instead of looking to their own earnings and industry for the maintenance of their families, are tempted to depend on the poor rates; he it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that from and after the passing of this Act it shall not be lawful for any overseer, churchwarden, or other officer of any parish, to make or pay to or for any labourer or person engaged or employed in any work, who shall be unmarried, or who shall marry after the passing of this Act, any allowance of any sum of money as or for cottage-rent, allowance for children, or under any other pretence, or any gift or reward whatever (except as hereinafter provided), in addition to the wages received by such person from his or her employer or employment; and all payments and allowances made contrary to this Act are hereby declared to be illegal, any law, custom or usage to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding; and all justices of the peace are hereby authorized and directed, within their respective jurisdictions, to strike all such allowances or payments out of the account of any overseers of the poor, as "unfounded," on the passing of such accounts before such justices.

Provided always, and he it enacted, that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to make it unlawful to afford necessary parochial relief or allowance in cases of illness of any such labourer or other person, or of his or her family; or to afford parochial allowance or remuneration to any labourer or person whilst employed by the parish officers wholly on account of such parish; or to afford parochial relief or allowance to any widow (or wife deserted by her husband) left with a family which she is by her and their labour unable to support; or to afford parochial relief or allowance to those who through old age or any infirmity are unable by their labour wholly to maintain themselves and their families; or to afford temporary parochial assistance to those who by fire, flood, or such sudden calamity, are in urgent distress.

And whereas after the passing of this Act it will be illegal to pay any parochial allowance to or for any person (not within the foregoing provisos and exceptions) engaged or employed in any work, unless employed on account of the parish; and it is expedient to devise better means for providing such parish employment distinct from the ordinary employment of the labourers in or near the said parish; And whereas by an Act passed in the fifty-ninth year of the reign of George the Third, intituled, "An Act to amend the Laws for the Relief of the Poor," it is among other things enacted, that under the circumstances in the said Act described, it shall be lawful for the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of any parish, with the consent of the inhabitants thereof in vestry assembled, to purchase or to hire, or take on lease, for and on account of the parish, any suitable portion or portions of land within or near to such parish, not exceeding twenty acres in the whole, and to employ and set to work in the cultivation of such land, on account of the parish, any such persons as by law they are directed to set to work: And whereas it is expedient that the powers and provisions of the above in part recited Act should be extended; be it therefore enacted, that all and every the enactments, powers and provisions contained in the said in part recited Act which apply to the purchase, hiring or taking on lease, on account of the parish, of any portion or portions of land not exceeding twenty acres in the whole, be extended to the purchase, hiring or taking on lease, on account of the parish, of any portion or portions of land not exceeding forty acres in the whole.

And be it further enacted, that this Act, and the several provisions respecting the relief of any labourer or person engaged in any work therein contained, relating or applying to overseers

overseers of the poor, shall extend and be construed to extend to every guardian in any parish appointed under an Act passed in the twenty-second year of the reign of King George the Third, intituled, "An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor," and to every guardian, director, manager and overseer of the poor appointed under any local Act of Parliament relative to the maintenance, regulation and relief of the poor.

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Appendix (B.)

A BILL for the better rating Tenements under a certain annual value.

WHEREAS by an Act passed in the fifty-ninth year of the reign of King George the Third, intituled, "An Act to amend the Laws for the Relief of the Poor," it is among other things enacted, that, under the circumstances in the said Act described, the owner or owners of certain houses, apartments or dwellings, let to the occupiers thereof at any rent not exceeding twenty pounds nor less than six pounds by the year, for any less term than one year, or on any agreement by which the rent shall be reserved or made payable at any shorter period than three months, shall be assessed to the rates for the relief of the poor, for and in respect of such houses, apartments or dwellings, and the outhouses and curtilages thereof, instead of the actual occupiers; and power is by the said Act given to enforce the payment of such rates against such owners; and various other enactments and certain provisions were made respecting the collection of poor rates assessed on such houses, apartments and dwellings: And whereas it is expedient that the powers, enactments and provisions of the said in part recited Act should be extended in manner hereinafter mentioned; be it therefore enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords spiritual and temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, that all and every the enactments, powers, provisions and exceptions contained in the said in part recited Act, for the assessing and levying the poor's rate, which apply to the houses, apartments or dwellings therein described, and the owners and occupiers thereof, shall apply and be extended to houses, apartments and dwellings, and the outhouses and curtilages thereof, and to all land let therewith, and to the owners and occupiers thereof, let at any rent under twelve pounds by the year, whether the rent shall be reserved monthly, half-yearly, or at any other period, and whether the letting be for a year or any greater or less period: Provided always, that nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to extend to the rating of houses, apartments and dwellings, or the outhouses and curtilages thereof, or the land let therewith, which before the passing of this Act shall be let on a lease for a term exceeding three years, or on a life or lives, until such lease shall expire.

Appendix (B.)

Appendix (C.)

ABSTRACT of the RETURNS of the Number of poor Persons belonging to each of the under-mentioned Parishes, Townships and Chapelrys, relieved or assisted from the Poor Rates, between 25th March 1827 and 25th March 1828; also of the Number of able bodied Men, being Parish-keepers, relieved or assisted from the Poor Rates, within the same Period and Places, whether by making up Wages, Allowance for Children, Cottage Rent, Parish Work, or for any other purpose whatever; distinguishing the Number of those assisted by Parish Employment from those assisted in any other manner.

Appendix (C.)

Names of Places.	Population in 1821.	Number of Persons Relieved.	Number of able bodied Men relieved, and Mode of Relief.		Total able-bodied relieved.
WILTS:					
Urchfont - - -	1,294	170	56	- - At parish work, and paid from poor rate.	30
Alloesings, with Allington and Falloway - - -	749	83	9	- - By making up wages, allow- ance to children, and cottage rent - - -	16
Marden - - -	950	13	7 4	By parish work on roads - - - - Allowance for children; sev- eral at work on roads, but paid out of way rate.	4
Exchilhampton - -	232	15	2	- - By making up wages on ac- count of families.	2
Clarton with Conock -	401	53	12	Allowance for children - -	22
Sturt - - -	193	10	7	- - Making up wages, and pa- rish work.	7
SUSSEX:					
Salisbury - - -	2,181	1,096	107 13	By rates - - - By parish work - - -	120

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Names of Parishes.	Number of Persons Relieved.	Number of able-bodied Men relieved, and Mode of Relief.			Total able-bodied relieved.
SUSSEX—continued.	Population in 1831.				
Brede - - - -	993	108 with their families.	33	On highways - - - -	108
Aslington - - -	309	27	75	Occasional relief - - -	
Ashurst - - - -	304	169 including 121 children.	18	By parish work - - -	18
			30	By poor rates - - - -	30
Shipley - - - -	1,120	181	46	Allowance for children - -	130
			40	Cottage rent - - - -	
			47	On highways - - - -	
West Grinstead - -	1,420	329	145	Poor rates - - - -	235
			90	Parish employment - - -	
Ewhurst - - - -	1,425	510	47	By poor rates - - - -	60
			16	On roads paid by way rate	
Nordham - - - -	1,358	532 including 430 women and children.	41	From occasional illness - -	80
			48	Parish work - - - -	
BUCKS:					
Great Horwood - -	584	156	114	By making up wages - - -	119
			5	By allowance for children -	
Whaddon - - - -	525	78	5	By allowance for children -	46
			44	By making up wages - - -	
Swansea - - - -	616	80, and 78 children.	30	By parish work - - - -	30
Aston Clinton - -	908	112 including 26 children.	6	By allowance for children -	21
			15	By parish work - - - -	
Stone - - - -	716	134	76	- - By allowance for children, making up wages, and cottage rent.	76
Thoraboeugh - - -	572	136	62	- - By allowance for children, and occasional sickness.	62
SALCE:					
Boschurch - - - -	1,477	15, with their families.	15	Illness of family - - - -	15
Hardley - - - -	308	10	2	Illness of family - - - -	2
Fitz - - - -	329	10 with their families.	4	By parish work - - - -	12
			8	By occasional relief - - -	
Loppington - - -	622	92	23	By poor rate - - - -	23
Great Ness - - -	833	273 including 154 children.	27	- - By allowance for children, and cottage rent.	27
Stewardline - - -	177	26	2	By rents paid, and parish work	2
NORTHUMBERLAND:					
Haltwhistle - - -	707	32	1	In workhouse - - - -	9
			1	By cottage rent - - - -	
Henshaw - - - -	553	45	2	By parish relief - - - -	3
			1	By cottage rent - - - -	
Melkridge - - - -	288	12	1	By cottage rent - - - -	1
Thirwall - - - -	293	16	3	By allowance for children -	3
Kirkbaugh - - -	286	30	-		
Curban - - - -	1,370	-	-		
WESTMORLAND:					
Kirby Lonsdale - -	3,769	138	42	By occasional relief - - -	42
Ravenstonedale - -	1,059	214 including women and children.	11	By occasional relief - - -	11
Bampton - - - -	614	40	11	- - By cottage rent and allowance for children.	11
Barton in Kendal -	642	206	25	By parish relief - - - -	25
Bootham - - - -	1,618	13 men and families, 48 children.	5	By cottage rent - - - -	5
Orton - - - -	1,525	225	32	- - By allowance for children, and cottage rent.	32

The following proportions may be deduced from this Return on Population of 1841, by Population Returns.

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1st. Proportion to whole Population of able-bodied receiving from Poor Rate.			2d. To able-bodied Labourers, taken at 1 in 6 to Population.		
Sussex	-	1 in 11	more than	1 in 3	able-bodied
Bucks	-	1 in 14	—	2 in 5	—
Wilts	-	1 in 30	—	1 in 5	—
Salop	-	1 in 54	—	1 in 9	—
Westmorland	-	1 in 73	—	1 in 12½	—
Northumberland	-	1 in 241	—	1 in 40	—

This, however, only gives the difference in the proportion of numbers of able-bodied men receiving from the rate. If the mode and duration of relief were given, the difference of system would be much more striking.

Appendix (D.)

Form of the Abstract of Annual Receipts and Expenditure of a Parish.

Appendix (D.)

(Appendix to Report of Select Committee of House of Commons on the Poor Laws, 1819, Paper 519.)

AN ACCOUNT showing the RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE of the Overseers of the Poor of
for the Year . . .

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.		£.
First rate, allowed 5th May, at 10 d.	166	Maintenance of in poor	-	612
Second - ditto - July -	166	Weekly payments to out poor	-	262
Third - ditto - September -	166	Ditto illegitimate children	-	94
Fourth - ditto - December -	166	Casual relief	-	38
Fifth - ditto 8th February -	166	County rates at in pound	-	98
Sixth - ditto 15th March -	168	Law expenses	-	62
Arcans of former rates	21	Surgeon's salary and bills	-	30
Cash from former overseers	3	Assistant overseer's salary	-	21
From fathers of illegitimate children	90	Premiums with apprentices	-	—
Miscellaneous Receipts	60	Clothing, repairs and poorhouse	-	150
Work done by paupers	250	Materials, &c.	-	—
By contract	—	Children's schooling	-	26
		Cash in hand	-	1,407
				15
	£. 1,422		£.	1,422

Made up to

D. D. Assistant Overseer.

Number of in-poor, 60 to 70. Out poor, 70 to 80. Illegitimate children, 26.

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE.	Comparison of Expenditure.			
	Year ending Lady-day 1840.	Year ending Lady-day 1841.	Increase.	Decrease.
In poor	550	612	62	—
Out poor	350	262	18	—
Illegitimate children	94	80	-	14
Casual relief	38	38	-	6
County rates	76	98	22	—
Ditto law expenses	40	62	22	—

Earl of Winchilsea
and Nottingham.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Winchilsea and Nottingham, a Member of the Committee, is Examined as follows:

18 February,
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IS your Lordship aware that any plan of emigration has been adopted in any of the parishes in your neighbourhood?—In two adjoining parishes to those in which I reside in Kent, on account of the great advantages which appeared to have arisen from the plan of emigration adopted by Mr. Hodges, those two parishes, on account of the feeling expressed by a certain number of labouring parishioners, agreed to facilitate their going to the United States. A parish meeting was called for the purpose of taking into consideration in what way a fund should be raised to meet the expenses attendant upon their emigration, and it was unanimously agreed, not only by the owners of property, but by all the occupiers of property in those two parishes; and I beg leave here to state that I believe, with the exception of one or two, they were all yearly tenants; they agreed to a rate to be levied upon the parish for the purpose of meeting those expenses. I think the number of persons, including women and children, amounted in the two parishes to about 70, that went to America.

Did your Lordship find that there was any disinclination on the part of those persons to leave this country?—Not the least, on the part of those who went, but a very anxious desire; there was a strong desire on the part of a great many others to have gone, but on account of the difficulties, they were not able to meet their wishes.

Has your Lordship heard of any of those persons since they went out?—I can only state with respect to my own parish, and where the parishioners are employed all the year round. Among my own labourers, one of the best labourers on my property, a man of between 40 and 50, with a family of six or seven children, stated his wish to me to go to America; it was on the ground of his having a large and increasing family, and that he saw no prospect of his children getting constant employment, and that he feared they would be on the parish for support: hearing there was a prospect of benefit from labour in America, he wished to go out. This man's earnings were from 40*l.* to 50*l.* a year. He went out; and I saw a letter to his father-in-law, stating that he was doing exceedingly well, and that two or three of his children he had got out into service; and also stating, that my active labourer was sure to get employment. Another labourer, who was younger, who went out also, wrote, that if his mother and brother would come out, he was ready to support them.

Has any benefit arisen to those parishes from those persons having gone to America?—I cannot say that any perceptible benefit has arisen, on account of the sum of money raised in those parishes, which was borrowed to be paid off by a rate on the parish in two, three, and four years; therefore no reduction of the rates in those parishes has yet taken place. They are both poor parishes; and we have still, in one of them, a population far beyond the means of employment, in an agricultural point of view. In the other parish I think some alteration has taken place; I will not attribute it altogether to the number of persons who went from it, but in conjunction with that cause. Four or five of the worst characters having been recently transported, there is a visible alteration in that parish; and I perfectly agree in the opinion of Mr. Slaney, that if the best character of the parish went out, the former character of the worst part of the community would be soon altered if employment were found. I think want of employment and occupation has tended greatly to demoralize our peasantry.

Do you know the expense it costs per head?—Seven pounds, taking the children. This was upon the calculation that they should have a certain sum of money in their pockets when they got to America, sufficient for their subsistence till they found some constant employment. The 7*l.* per head included all their expenses, and something in pocket; that was going on a liberal allowance in comparison to that at which it has been done in some parishes. It was felt that they ought to have some money in their pocket in case, from sickness or casualty, they could not find immediate employment.

Does your Lordship act as a magistrate?—I do.

Do you not believe that the maladministration of the Poor Laws tends very much to demoralize the poorer classes?—Decidedly.

Is your Lordship aware that it has been the practice in some parts of the country to pay able-bodied men, who work, money out of the poor rates?—My own opinion, with respect to the lower classes of the county of Kent, is this: I think that

that those that are employed receive wages higher than the people almost of any county in England. Our wages have never been less than 12s. a week, and the average 13s. 6d.; but it is the unemployed men principally who receive out of the poor rates; they are employed upon the roads, and receiving a miserable pittance of 6d. a day, or 3s. 6d. a week. The system of paying the single men their mere miserable subsistence out of the poor rates has tended to occasion those improvident marriages. A man, finding he was better off as a married man than as a single one, would naturally try to better his situation.

Your Lordship has stated that no perceptible benefit was derived from the emigration which took place, because the poor rates still continued at the same rate; did you in that include the sum paid for a certain time by way of instalment towards repaying the expense incurred in the emigration?—Yes.

When the period has arrived at which that money has been repaid by instalments, perhaps you anticipate that there will be an advantage resulting to the parish from the emigration?—My own opinion depends in a great measure on the caution of owners of property; for if persons are suffered to come and fill up the cottages again, and the number is greater than can be employed, there will be no benefit.

Does it happen in your neighbourhood that in many instances cottages are occupied by more than one family?—Certainly.

Does your Lordship find in your neighbourhood that the parish is much relieved from giving assistance to labourers in consequence of their being provided with land?—We are only just commencing, to any extent, giving land to our labourers.

To what extent may they have been provided?—In those parishes to which I refer they have had no land at all, with the exception of a small garden to some of the cottages. The cottages, generally speaking, have tolerable gardens; but there is a great scarcity of house-room to the great body of our population.

What is the rent of cottages in that neighbourhood?—From 5l. to 6l. and 7l. a year. In a parish close to me the actual rent received for the house is more than the actual value of the house itself. There are five or six families in one house, and the rent they pay is 2s. a week for a single room, making 30l. a year, and I do not think the house is worth 30l.; but those rents are in fact paid out of the poor's rates.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, Twelve o'clock.

Die Martis, 22^o Februarii, 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Richard Spooner, Esquire, is called in; and Examined, as follows:

YOUR ordinary residence is at Worcester?—It is.

Are you acquainted with the state of the labourers in Warwickshire and Worcestershire?—I am.

The agricultural as well as the manufacturing labourers?—I am.

Are many agricultural labourers out of employment in Worcestershire?—There are not a great many out of employment, but all those who are employed are employed at a very low rate of wages.

At what rate, by the farmers or by the overseers?—In Warwickshire the rate of wages is higher than in Worcestershire. In Warwickshire it averages from 10s. to 12s. a week; by the farmers in Worcestershire, from 7s. to 9s.

How much by the overseer?—I am not aware that there is any regular rate in Warwickshire; they relieve each case as the peculiar pressure of the case seems to require. In Worcestershire there was a regulation passed at the last Epiphany sessions, a regulation made amongst ourselves, not passed at sessions: the regulation was, to allow each man 3s. a week; each woman, 2s. 6d.; each child under the age of ten, 1s. 6d.; each young person above the age of ten, 2s.

Are you of opinion that if the farmers possessed greater means, more labourers would be employed, and at full wages?—I have not the smallest doubt of it.

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Are you of opinion that more labourers could be profitably employed than are employed at present?—Certainly; I am not aware of any farm, I have seen a great many, where the farm itself is not now suffering in point of cultivation from the smallness of the number of labourers employed upon that farm, and where the returns of the tenant are not very greatly diminished by that same circumstance.

Would not the number of labourers be deficient in time of harvest were it not for the Irish labourers who resort to that county?—Certainly; in the midland counties we have by no means population enough to get in our harvest without the Irish and the Welch, both of which flock into the midland counties at the time of harvest.

What wages are paid in harvest?—The wages vary very much according to the circumstances, whether the corn ripens altogether at once, or not. Harvest work is chiefly done by piece work, and the farmer makes the best bargain he can, according to the circumstances of the case.

Can you state the average?—Three shillings a day I should state to be a fair average rate of wages, with a very full allowance of beer or cider; either in our country; and, perhaps, dinner once, or twice or three times in the week.

Are you of opinion that relief could be afforded by emigration?—I conceive, certainly not; but that great mischief would be done by emigration. Emigration will take away from us the very best hands, and will leave us burdened with the worst; emigration will take away consumers and tax-payers, and therefore will tend to lessen the price of agricultural produce on the one hand, and to increase the burden of taxation on the other.

Do you think that relief could be afforded by the reduction of rent?—Not relief to the labourers, because reduction of rent would not put into the hands of the farmers the immediate means of paying the labourers; it would be an ultimate relief to him at the expiration of six months, the next rent-day; but the labourer is now suffering from the total inadequacy of the means of the farmer, in the way of ready money, to pay the men on the Saturday night; the reduction of rent would not relieve that evil.

Does the truck system, that of paying wages in goods instead of money exist in your neighbourhood, or in any places with which you are personally acquainted?—It does, in the manufacturing district, but has not yet extended to the agricultural districts.

Are you not of opinion that that system is productive of great evils?—The system itself is very bad, and is productive of very great evils.

You allude to the manufacturing districts?—Entirely so.

What do you consider to be the causes which have led to the adoption of the truck system?—I look upon the truck system to be rather a symptom than the disease itself; it is the total inadequacy of finding means to pay the labourers in money, which has compelled the manufacturer to have recourse to the truck system.

What in your opinion would be the remedy for the truck system?—Increasing the quantity of circulating medium in the country, and so enabling the manufacturer to get the same easy way of procuring money to pay his men that he formerly had.

What do you consider to be the causes of the present want of employment, and of the low wages prevailing in so many parts of the country?—The want of a sufficient circulating medium in the country.

Do you mean sufficient for the wants of the country?—Sufficient for the wants of the country.

What do you consider to be the remedy for those evils?—Anything that would tend to give to the funds for the employment of the labouring poor a supply from any source which is not now in action.

Will you have the goodness to explain that idea a little more fully?—I mean that you will not increase the means of employing the poor, by diverting those means which are now employed in one channel, from that channel into another; for instance, by reduction of rent you will not increase the means of employing the poor, because, exactly in the same way as you diminish rent, you must diminish the expenditure of those who receive that rent, and their diminished expenditure of course must diminish the proportion of employment of labour in those channels in which that expenditure now takes place. By emigration you will not afford relief, because the money which you spend to send persons abroad

would

would be extracted from those funds which are now devoted to the employment of labour, and which are already too small for that purpose. The money would be spent abroad instead of at home, and that would tend still more to decrease the funds for the employment of labour at home.

You therefore see no other remedy than a greater circulation of money, and that a species of circulation which would be adequate to the purpose?—I can see no other effectual remedy. I do not mean to say that there are no other evils; in a highly civilized state of society like this, there will always other evils and inconveniences arise; but the want of a sufficient circulating medium aggravates every evil, and will be found to paralyze every remedy.

Are you of opinion the remedy which you recommend could be adopted under the present monetary system of the country?—Certainly not; because any extension of circulating medium at the present moment, under the present monetary system, would have a tendency in the first place to raise prices; raising prices would take away from gold the power of doing so much in this country as it does abroad, consequently gold would leave this country; in whatever way you force your circulating medium out, while it is liable to be brought to the test of gold at its present rate, it must be contracted when gold leaves the country, by lessening the paper circulation of the country.

Are you of opinion that any relief was afforded by the Beer Bill of last session?—Certainly not. The Beer Bill of last session has been attended with most mischievous consequences; its effect has been to draw labouring people to drink in public-houses not under the control of the magistrates, at least very partially under the control of the magistrates, to lead them more from their families than they were used to be before. The effect has been to encourage drunkenness in great towns, but in no degree to give the labouring poor the power of getting good malt liquor at their own homes more than they had before.

Are you of opinion any relief would be afforded by taking off the duty on malt?—I conceive that very great relief would be afforded both to the farmer and to the labourer.

How?—To the farmer it would be attended with benefit, by enabling him to make the best use of a great quantity of inferior grain, which by the duty on malt he is now prevented from doing; there is much that would be malted if there was no duty; this is not now malted because the duty is the same on barley of a high quality as on barley of a low quality, while barley of a high or good quality will make a much larger quantity of malt than the inferior barley. It would be a great relief to the labourer; for could a farmer make malt upon his own premises, and brew on his premises, without the intervention of the Excise, he would supply the labourer with a good and wholesome beverage in sufficient quantity for his family, without his resorting to the public-house. The labourer also would be indirectly benefited if the farmer could malt his grain as he chose, as he would then be able to feed his beef to a greater profit, and consequently afford to sell it at a lower price than he can at the present moment; any one who has looked to the feeding of cattle knows that a certain quantity of grain, first of all malted, will go much further in feeding cattle than in a dry state.

Are you of opinion that the establishment of what is called a labour rate would be beneficial?—I should conceive it would be exceedingly injurious; for I cannot see how it can be done on fair terms. I have seen a scheme for a labour-rate bill under print, and that scheme for a labour-rate bill contemplates three things: the first clause prohibits the overseer from employing any part of the poor's rate in the payment of labour; this is a proper provision, if it can be carried into effect; but the next provides there shall be a list of all labourers in the parish wanting employment; a list of the rate-payers, with the amount each pays, and in proportion to the rate he pays every one to be compelled to employ a certain given number of labourers. Now that will bear most unfairly upon the different qualities of land. Rich grass land has already been paid for by the owner at a higher price because of its quality, and because of its quality enabling a greater return from a smaller quantity of labour; the poor land has been bought at a lower price, exactly upon the converse of that proposition. The rich land stands highest in the assessment; and it is the highest in the assessment because it by nature requires less labour; and that land, thus by nature requiring less labour, and therefore higher in the assessment, becomes subject to a greater assessment towards this labour rate, which would thus act most unfairly on the different qualities of land. There is another part of that scheme which appears to me rather extraordinary;

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inary: it is the clause that a man not choosing to employ this labour shall forfeit any sum not exceeding 2s. a day for each labourer; and what is to become of this sum so forfeited, it is to go in aid of the parish rate, which parish rate is prohibited from contributing to the wages of labour; and therefore a gentleman occupying a large house and garden, rather than have a parcel of persons about him whom he does not wish to have, must either pay a forfeit of 2s. a day to the overseer, which he is prohibited from paying in aid of wages of labour, or he must pay his 2s. or 1 s. 6d. to a man to go and spend it in idleness at a public-house. I conceive there cannot be a way invented by which there shall be employment insured, and full employment for the labourer at a fair remunerating price, but by making it the interest of the employer so to do, and which can only be accomplished by giving the person who employs a profit in the employment.

Are you not of opinion, however, that the labour rate would be advantageous to the labourer?—I doubt whether it would; and I thought that I before explained, in the answer to the last question, the difficulty which would arise from the number of persons in the parish who would pay money to get rid of the men; the men would go immediately into the public-house and drink, instead of being profitably employed.

Are you not of opinion that a labour rate would tend materially to lessen the poor's rate now paid by all land of that most valuable description, the land to which you have referred?—It would tend to diminish that sum of money paid under the shape of poor's rate, but it would by no means diminish the whole payment paid by the owner or occupier of the soil.

That money would be beneficially employed in that case?—Not under the provision to which I have alluded. If there was a provision that the overseer should not in any way pay the rate to any one in aid of the wages of labour, but that he should find means of employment for all persons out of employment, and that he should separate them (if I may use the expression) from the market for labour, I should conceive there would result great benefit from that, because if there are but one, two or three men idle in a parish, those one, two or three contaminate the whole; they will tend to depress the rate of wages; but if you take away those whom the farmer does not choose to employ, and the overseers were to have a labour rate by which to employ them, it would be found that the excess of labour would not be very great, for the excess of labour now arises from the want of means on the part of the farmer to pay them. The effect which one, two or three in a parish may have upon the wages of the whole number in the parish is great.

You are therefore of opinion that the apparent excess of labour arises altogether from the inability to employ men, and from the general pressure on the country?—Exactly so.

Are you acquainted with the proportion of the population to the acreage in Warwickshire and Worcestershire?—I am not.

Why would emigration not relieve the country?—I have stated before, that I think it would take away from us the best hands, and leave us burdened with the worst; and that it would take away consumers and tax-payers.

Do you think it would take away the best labourers?—I do.

What do you conceive the best labourers; do you mean in a moral or a workmanlike point of view?—I consider that it would take, both morally and physically, the best.

Do you not conceive that the want of employment driving a large portion of labourers of this country to look to the poor's rate as their only means of subsistence, tends to demoralize the people?—I should say that whatever drives the poor to look to the poor's rate for their subsistence greatly demoralizes the people; but I would wish to draw this distinction: I do not attribute it to the want of employment, but the want of the means of payment; there is plenty of employment if there were the means.

Does not the want of employment drive a great portion of the labourers of this country to look to the poor's rate as their only means of subsistence?—Undoubtedly.

Do you believe that those men are demoralized by deriving their only means of subsistence from that source?—Undoubtedly.

Do you not therefore think that if those best men you allude to were out of the market for labour, that those who would succeed them, and therefore have constant employment, would be much benefited in their morals and in their situation?

—I do

—I do not conceive that that effect would follow. If I am to answer the question, whether the employment of them would have that effect, I admit that; but I do not admit that their employment would necessarily follow; because emigration would lessen the funds of employment exactly, in my opinion, in the same proportion, or perhaps rather more, than it would lessen the claims upon those funds, because the money which was expended in emigration would be expended out of the country, instead of being expended in the country.

Do you allude to possessions which are not British possessions?—I am looking certainly, in answer to that question, to the immediate effect it would have upon this island.

Would it not, in your view of the case, be a benefit to our foreign possessions to get this increase of population?—Undoubtedly it would be a benefit to our foreign possessions, but I think it would do much more than a corresponding injury to our country at home.

That must be a matter of calculation?—A matter of opinion arising from facts.

Supposing that the price of labour in every one of our foreign possessions, Van Diemen's Land for instance, is 5s. a day, would not the transmission of a certain number of our labourers, who now only exist from relief given them by the law, naturally benefit that colony?—I should say it would certainly benefit that colony.

Do you not think that every benefit which is conferred upon our colonies is a benefit to the mother country?—I cannot answer that quite so largely; benefits to the colonies may be purchased by too great a sacrifice at home.

Are you not aware that our colonies are an enormous expense to this country at this moment?—I am.

Do you not think it would be very advantageous to this country that they should be enabled to bear a certain portion, if not the whole of their expenses?—If what caused their ability to bear their expenses did not lessen our ability to bear our own.

If gentlemen before this Committee have stated their opinion, that there are in the south-west counties of England many labourers who cannot be profitably employed, what remedy would you propose?—I cannot propose a remedy to a fact which I cannot believe to exist. I come to a very different conclusion: I believe there is, when I say no land (I believe, with very few exceptions) there is no spot in England where, if a labourer was set to work, the result of that labour would not be a larger product than that labourer, with an average number of family, would consume.

And therefore a gain to the community?—And therefore a gain to the community.

Your opinion is founded upon this, that there are no more labourers in England than might be profitably employed?—My opinion is so founded upon the principle I have stated, that a labourer set to work upon a certain quantity of soil will find that soil produce more than he and the average number of his family would consume. The want of profit upon the employment of that labour may arise from different circumstances; the tenant may be burdened with engagements which have brought him into a state in which he may not have the means of employing labour; not having the means of employing labour, not having the capital nor ability to wait till its return, he is disabled from doing so, not being able to maintain the labourer till a profitable return can be made.

Do you mean to say that spade husbandry, or any means of that sort, ought to be adopted on those farms?—I believe that in many cases the labourers might be profitably employed by spade husbandry; but I believe when that experiment is tried, supposing the spade husbandry could be set on foot by any introduction of capital not drawn from the present sources of employment for the poor, it would be found that the redundancy of population would be very small, that the population not employed would be very small, and there would be very little necessity for having recourse to spade labour.

Do you admit that all articles are cheap in proportion to their abundance or rarity?—No, I do not; there is another cause which operates upon price; that is the power of demand: this makes the difference of cheapness or dearness of articles. As an abstract question, I should say that the supply regulates the demand; but as a practical question, I should say there is a difference between the want of an article and the power of demanding it.

Is it not your opinion that diminishing the number of labourers, the wages of many of whom are made up partly out of the poor's rate, would so diminish the amount paid in poor's rate by the farmer, that he would be capable of paying the remaining

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remaining labourers better wages?—If that diminution of labourers was occasioned by the application of money to which the farmer does not contribute; because, in exact proportion as he contributes to that payment of the labour rate, so much that would take from him the means of employing others.

May it not be impracticable to employ the whole of the labourers in particular districts by spade husbandry or home colonization; and may it not, in such district, be desirable to obtain an immediate relief by emigration of part; and are you not of opinion that it is desirable as a general system?—To the first part of the question I should certainly say, that there may be districts peculiarly hardened, in which the number of labourers may, as far as that district is concerned, profitably be lessened; but I doubt whether it would not be better to lessen the number of labourers in those districts by an application of their labour to domestic objects, rather than to send them abroad.

Would you employ any superabundant population which may exist in the country exclusively on home colonization, or would you admit emigration also as a partial remedy for the evil?—I should prefer home colonization exclusively.

Under all circumstances, do you object to emigration?—Decidedly so, under all circumstances.

If three labourers could be sent away for the same expense as will support one here, is not the country relieved of the burden at a less expense than it would heat to support the burden at home?—I should conceive not, because the expenditure of the three would be made at home; it would be a source of employment for other people; if the labourer was sent abroad, it would lessen the employment of others at home. A great difference exists between spending money at home and abroad.

Suppose there are twenty labourers altogether in a parish, and that a farmer who farms the poor of that parish requires only fifteen, do not the other five tend to reduce the price of the fifteen?—Undoubtedly.

Do you believe that without an alteration of the circulating medium you can relieve the labourers of this country?—I do not believe that you can give any efficient relief to the labourers of this country without an alteration of the present monetary system of the country.

If the Parliament should not be of opinion to alter that monetary system, you do not believe that any relief can be given to the labouring classes?—I do not believe, without such alteration, that any effectual permanent relief could be given to the labouring classes of this country.

You have stated, that an addition to the funds for the employment of the poor would improve their condition, and that an addition to the circulating medium would have that effect; do you mean to say that the funds for the employment of labour are or can be any other than food, raiment and necessities furnished by the capitalist to the labourer while he is employed in working up the raw material, and will an addition to the circulating medium add to the amount of food and raiment?—To the first part of the question I should say, that there are no other funds for the employment of the poor but the food and raiment to which your Lordship has alluded, but that the increase of the circulating medium may enable the farmer to command that food and that raiment for the employment of his labourer which without a circulating medium may lie perfectly dormant; there may be plenty of food and plenty of clothing, (and we have seen the farmer complaining that he could not sell either of them,) and there may be at the same time a great population, on the other hand, half fed and half clothed. Now the effect of an increased circulating medium would be to give to the farmer the means of converting his extra produce, which he feels a burden upon him, into that circulating medium, and so to increase the funds for the employment of the poor, and enable them to get at the clothes and food which without that circulating medium they have no means of doing.

You allow that food and raiment are capital?—I do.

Do you then imagine that capital remains idle and unemployed?—There is a very considerable proportion of the representative of food and raiment now lying unemployed.

You have stated that you think there is no excess of population in this country?—I have.

Do you confine that opinion to the manufacturing, or do you include the whole interest of the country, agricultural as well as manufacturing?—My answer was of a very general nature. There always will be, in a high state of civilization, certain

certain districts labouring under an increased population, arising from the application of machinery; every improvement in machinery will for a certain time throw a number of persons out of employment; but the effect of that machinery being to add to the general wealth of the country, that general wealth will add to the general sources of employment of the labouring people. A whole district may thus be affected, but that does not affect the general question, in my opinion.

Your opinion is, that the population of a country never can exceed, under any circumstances, the means of natural employment within that country?—I am not prepared to go quite so far as that; but I do not think we are near that point yet.

Are you not of opinion that this country possesses that amount of capital which, with the assistance of a proper circulating medium, would give sufficient profitable employment to all the labouring poor?—Decidedly.

You have stated that you do not think the country would derive any advantage from emigration, because that emigration would take out of the country a certain body of tax-payers; do you not think it would also take out of the country a certain number of individuals who are subsisted entirely out of the poor's rates, and who are, under the present administration of the Poor Laws, a constant burden upon the country?—I do not think it would take out of the country those individuals who have existed on the poor rates; I think it would take out a different class. I admit that by so doing it would call a considerable number into employment who are now living out of the poor rates, provided the funds for emigration were found from some source not already engaged in the employment of the poor.

How do you account for this, that in some parts of England occupiers of land and yearly tenants have agreed to tax themselves, having merely the prospective benefits to be derived from emigration by sending off the overplus of the population of their respective parishes?—Because I consider that those individuals have been in the habit of confining their views to the peculiar sphere in which they live, and they feel that their immediate pressure is having more labourers than they have the means to employ. They conceive that by the sacrifice of a few pounds at the present moment they shall ultimately get relieved from that. I think that in that conclusion they are erroneous, and that they will not get the relief which they anticipate.

What grounds have you for supposing that those who derive their existence from the parish would not emigrate?—I think that any person who conducts emigration on a principle to be beneficial to the colonies would not pick out those persons to go; they are not the characters that I should send if I were employed to select them. The persons who are willing to go have enterprise; they are generally persons of high independent feelings, who feel that they cannot exist here, that they are pressed down by difficulties here, and they are willing to seize any opportunity which affords them a fairer field for their talents and their labour.

Are there not thousands of labourers in the counties of Kent, Sussex, Hampshire and Wiltshire, who are in such distress, that any change would be a relief to them?—I make no doubt there are, and that there may be in some instances persons of that character willing to go; but I do not conceive their going will leave the remaining class of labourers in a better condition; for the funds applied to send them out will be so much abstracted from the general employment of the poor at home.

You stated that in your opinion the best part of the labouring classes would be the body to emigrate?—Yes.

Do not you think that the great cause of demoralization of British peasants has arisen from the want of employment, and their having been subsisted out of the poor's rates; and that if employment were found for that class of men, they would be very much changed in point of character?—Decidedly.

Therefore it would not be a very material consequence to the parish whether the best labourers went out, because a great change would be immediately effected?—A great change to a certain extent would be effected; that would not perhaps be quite so great as your Lordship contemplates; but I must guard all these answers against it being supposed that I think that relief would be obtained, or that those men would come into employment; because the means of sending these emigrants abroad would be taken from the funds by which labour is employed at home.

If there are 100 labourers in a parish, and funds only properly to support 80, if the surplus could be removed without any expense, would it not be a benefit?—I even doubt whether there would be any benefit arising from that in the present state of the country; if the state of the country was such that we had one-fifth

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more population than could by a proper application of capital be profitably employed at home, that would be correct; but I deny that position altogether. I say that this country is not in that position, but that by a judicious employment of capital all the labourers of this country may be profitably employed, and would cause a corresponding increase to the wealth of the country, by employment at home.

You stated that you thought a labour rate would prove exceedingly injurious, and your opinion was founded upon the inequality of the pressure of that rate on different descriptions of land in the parish?—I have said that a labour rate under certain circumstances might be beneficial: I objected to a labour rate, a scheme of which I have seen under print.

Supposing there was a parish in which all the land was of the same quality, and in which there were 10 occupiers of land; for instance, that eight of those occupiers concurred in the propriety of employing a certain proportion of the labourers, and of giving them a certain rate of remuneration, but that two of the farmers objected to bearing their proportion; would it not be just and equitable, and beneficial in the result, to compel every individual in the parish to bear his fair proportion of the burdens thrown upon the parish?—If the two persons refusing to employ their share of labourers were able to pay them, then the labour rate would certainly effect the object in view; but if they were not able to employ them, if they had not sufficient capital to employ them, and were compelled to employ them, they must diminish their expenditure in some other channel, and must throw some other labourers out of employment to the same extent.

Do you think those other farmers ought to be compelled to feel that burden which ought fairly to have fallen on those two men?—Certainly not.

If a labour rate could be so framed, meeting the objections you have stated, compelling occupiers of land to employ labourers in proportion to their rate, and were framed so as to meet the object of the different qualities of land, do not you think that would be beneficial?—If it could be framed in the manner alluded to, and the means of paying that rate can be raised from any source not now engaged in the employment of labourers, it would be beneficial; but no benefit can be derived by a labour rate compelling persons to pay for the employment of labour if it clashes with the means of employing labourers in the manner in which they are now employed.

Would a labour rate be of the slightest service if Parliament did not enact by law what a man should pay a labourer whom he employs?—Undoubtedly not.

Would not that be one of the most objectionable things that could possibly be done?—Certainly.

Would not an interference in the price of labour be very objectionable on every ground?—An interference compelling any individual to give a certain given rate of wages would be highly injurious; but an interference requiring an overseer to make a general rate, and with that rate to give employment to all persons who are unemployed, at a given rate of wages, would not, in my opinion, be injurious, but would be beneficial, if that labour rate, as I have stated before, could be by any means met by funds which are not now engaged in the payment for labour.

It would not be right to enact how much the farmer was to give a labourer, unless you could enact how much the farmer should give the landlord?—Certainly; that could not be done by legislative enactment.

You have stated that you consider there is no excess of population; in what manner do you think this population, which at present is very inadequately and very insufficiently employed, could be beneficially employed?—By increasing the circulating medium, which would immediately give the means of profitably employing those labourers; the farmer, finding an interest in the profitable employment of them, would immediately employ them. But I must guard that again, by saying, under the present monetary system no such increase of the circulating medium could take place.

Suppose the Government were inclined to advance money for the purpose of employing an increased number of the population; do you not conceive that that would be providing the funds which would afford means for that employment?—I do; but I conceive the result of that, under the present monetary system, would be to produce a re-action; it would raise the prices, and send the gold abroad; and, exactly in the same proportion as the Government increased the circulation for the purpose of employing the poor, the bank would find itself compelled to contract

contract its issues, for the purpose of guarding against the increased demand for gold which would follow the rise of prices.

Supposing such increase of capital could be provided for the employment of labourers; in what manner do you think it would be most desirable for the public that that increased means should be applied; for instance, in respect of domestic colonization?—I think domestic colonization would be one of the best means of employing them; but, with the view I have before stated, it is impossible it should take place, while it is met by the check to which I have referred. The circulating medium cannot be increased above the present point under the present monetary system, for at this present moment gold is leaving the country.

Under the supposition that increased capital were provided, in what way would you think it best to employ it in regard to domestic colonization?—That is a question with which I hardly know how to deal. If capital could be safely employed, the best means would be, to leave it in its natural channels, for individuals to employ it; but what prevents individuals from now employing it, is, first of all, that the circulating medium is not sufficient to enable them to do so, and those who have the issuing of that circulating medium know too well the danger which would attend its increase to put it into circulation under the present monetary system.

Have you any reason to suppose there is a quantity of land in this country on which an additional quantity of labour could be beneficially employed?—I believe there is a very small quantity of land in this kingdom on which additional labour might not be profitably employed.

Have you any means of forming an opinion as to the quantity of acres to which you think labour might be profitably applied?—I cannot speak to the quantity of acres, but I should say generally, with few exceptions, every farm might, under proper extension of capital, profitably employ an increased number of labourers.

The question does not apply itself to the question of increase of currency, or the monetary system, but simply whether you conceive that there is an additional quantity of land which, if labour was applied to it, would be able to produce a sufficient quantity of productiveness in the way of food and in the way of clothing?—There is a very small quantity of land, in my opinion, in this kingdom on which the employment of additional labour would not cause an increase of production much larger than the consumption of the labourer, and the average family of the labourer.

Supposing any considerable number of such labourers as are called redundant should be taken away from the parishes in which they are now to be found, and that land was to be provided in this country on which to locate such labourers, and that a sufficient quantity of capital were to be supplied to maintain that population till they should put those lands into a productive state; in what manner do you think that it would be most desirable they should proceed, with respect, in the first instance, to the obtaining possession of redundant labourers, and in the next instance to apply that labour in such manner as would be likely to be most beneficial to the country?—I am hardly prepared to answer that question; that is a question which requires a great deal of consideration; and I should say I should regulate (as at present advised) the domestic colonization, if it was necessary to have recourse to it, on much the same principle as foreign emigration would be regulated. At the present moment there is a plan of emigration; certain steps are taken to procure land, and to send the persons out to be put into possession of it. Some such plan must be adopted with regard to domestic colonization.

Do not you think that the population of this country would be much better pleased with being located at home, if means were provided for their sustenance till such time as they could bring the lands on which they are to be located into a productive state, than they would be by being called upon, on account of their necessities, to emigrate?—Undoubtedly.

Do not you think, that as by putting those persons in a situation where they would be able to be profitably employed, would be far more beneficial to all classes of persons in this country, that such means should be resorted to?—No doubt whatever.

Do not you conceive that, supposing a sufficient quantity of persons in this country were to be so located, it would be desirable, as far as may be, to assimilate the description of persons of whom the population should be composed, with respect to farmers, and with respect to labourers and mechanics, in the same

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manner as prevails in the most prosperous agricultural parts of this country?—Certainly.

Do you suppose that if capital was to be found for that purpose, and the legislature were inclined to give facilities, what is called the redundant population in the different parishes would be very well inclined to avail themselves of such an offer?—Perfectly so; the redundant population would be found much smaller under those circumstances than is generally contemplated.

Do you not conceive that the country would be found far better able to bear its burdens if what is now found to be a burdensome part of the population was so provided for?—Undoubtedly.

Do you not conceive that the mere fact of such a population being created would of itself be a benefit with respect to bearing the burdens of this country?—Certainly.

Would it not also have a very great benefit in increasing the prosperity of those parishes in which such redundant population is at present situated?—Wherever there is a real redundant population. I am very sceptical about the fact of a redundant population.

In a case of a location taking place, would there not in the neighbouring districts be great jealousy, in the north of England, extending even as far as Lincolnshire, and all those parts of the kingdom which conceive themselves not hardened with poor, would there not be great jealousy to admitting those locations, under the apprehension that they might be burdened with poor's rate, and injured in the same manner as they have heard that land had been injured in the south, by what is called a redundant population?—I should conceive, unless the plan was guarded so that the settlers (if I may use the expression) should not become chargeable upon the parishes into which they are brought to settle, there would be a jealousy; but of course that would be provided for in any plan.

Would they conceive it was possible so to provide for them, though you might make the law compulsory upon some particular parish; would there not be a fear that the increase could not be kept within its distinct boundaries?—There might be that jealousy; but my own opinion is that it would be unfounded.

You must suppose that the adjoining parishes in that case would have a fair ground of jealousy, unless you conceive that what is vulgarly called the preventive check would act as strongly, or more strongly, upon the persons and families so located, as it usually does on persons of a higher rank in society?—I do not think they would have a fair ground of jealousy, for I do not believe they would find any evil from a superabundant population; but persons forming a different conclusion to that at which I have arrived on the question of a superabundant population, might perhaps be jealous of that question.

You have stated that an agricultural labourer would always be able to produce more than he can consume, under proper application of capital; have you formed any opinion of the quantity of land necessary for the support of a man and his family?—Upon the average number of families, I should say from half an acre to three quarters of land, a labourer will support himself and his family.

And still leave a surplus above his consumption?—Yes.

Must not that depend on the fertility of the soil?—Yes. I have taken it on an average: it would depend on a calculation which I have not accurately gone into; some land would do much more, some much less.

Independently of any other wages?—Yes, entirely.

Do you mean to say that three quarters of an acre per head is applicable to the heads of the family?—Yes; three quarters for the heads of the family.

Can you make any calculation, seeing how impossible it would be to expect that such land would be equally productive year after year?—I have some doubts of that: it would not be equally productive if labourers were put, with the little knowledge they have of cultivation, upon it; but land occupied by labourers well acquainted with cultivation might be maintained in a condition equally productive. The greater the produce, the greater the possibility of return of manure.

In the cultivation which prevails in gardens a great deal of manure is derived from other sources than that which the refuse of the garden produces?—Certainly.

That being the case, do you suppose that cultivation, year after year, would be that which would enable the labourer to cultivate his land equally productively?—I am

—I am inclined to think, by a proper course of cultivation, the land might be kept year after year in an equally productive state.

If the labour of a man can support himself and family on three-quarters of an acre of land, what capital should you think necessary to enable him so to do, further than the land?—That supposes of course that there is a house for the man to live in; then there is no other capital than his maintenance during the time, his tools and his seed, and some manure for him to begin with.

How does the monetary system affect the employment of the labour on such land?—Because that to any great extent would require a considerable capital, and that capital coming into the market would raise the price of the labourer's food; there would come into the market a certain quantity of money to be expended in the capital which forms the year's maintenance and stock of that labourer.

How do you calculate that this labourer would be enabled to find himself with clothes, and coals, and other necessities, besides the mere wheat or potatoes he has to eat?—I may not be correct in the quantity, but I am still of opinion that with an average family that would be sufficient.

How much wheat should you suppose a labourer to grow upon his three-quarters or acre of land?—If it was all employed on wheat, the average produce is not more than 23 bushels an acre; but the land would be in a much higher state of cultivation, and would, in my opinion, under proper management, be better guarded from birds and vermin than it can possibly be in large fields.

You conceive that a quarter of wheat is more than sufficient for each individual in a family per head?—Certainly, including children.

Are you not aware that in the general calculation the consumption of bread corn is generally taken at a quarter per head upon the population?—It is so; but I think it is a great deal more than is consumed by the population in general. I know my own labourers, a man and his wife and three or four children, do not consume more than, I think, three-quarters of a bushel per week; a man and his wife and five children.

The calculation you have given in would take 40 bushels in a year?—That is if they consume only bread.

Do you think that there is any garden in England, which, without a certain quantity of manure, and without fallow of some description, will produce twenty quarters of wheat per acre?—Certainly not; but their great food upon the ground would be potatoes, and potatoes will make a vast deal of difference; but these calculations are all off hand, and are without any preparation; but from what I have seen of families, I think that from three-quarters of an acre to an acre would be sufficient.

Those families of which you are speaking have probably had other resources from their daily labour?—When the family is small they cannot do it, for a man would not cultivate an acre of ground without assistance, but when his children got up he might, as they would assist him.

You stated that the agriculturists at present are suffering under a considerable degree of depression; what are the plans, if any, that you would recommend for the amelioration of those sufferings?—I have stated my views with regard to domestic colonization, I having been asked so to do. I do not, however, recommend that as the best mode of relieving distress. I recommend as the best plan of relieving both the agricultural and manufacturing counties, the revision of the monetary system; and were that system put on a right footing, the more the whole management of every interest is left to the individuals themselves, the more effectually will the end be answered, of making every class happy and contented, and the nation at large prosperous.

What is the plan you would recommend under the present monetary system?—I am at a loss really to recommend any plan, but I would state one or two very great evils which press very much on the agricultural interests; and one which I would state as pressing heavily on the farmer, is the manner in which the tithes generally are collected. I would wish to guard myself against any idea of mixing myself up with the popular clamour against tithes, or of supposing for one moment that they are not private property as much and as *bona fide* and completely as any other property; but the way in which they are collected is certainly productive of very great evil, and I will explain that to your Lordships by example: a person purchases an estate, he is perfectly well aware that if he was to employ capital in cultivating that estate, the increased return from that estate would

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nish him a very good additional interest for his money, and fully remunerate him, were he to have the increased produce, that is, the produce from the increased application of capital; but he must thus calculate: I have money in the funds, which money does not now pay tithes, but by bringing that money into the shape of improved cultivation of land it becomes liable to tithes; and that proportion of the produce which goes in tithes would very likely be the proportion with which the person would be contented for the reward of laying out that additional capital in the improved cultivation of his land. That is one great evil, I conceive, that presses upon land, and consequently upon the labourers.

Are there no plans which under the present system you would recommend as tending to ameliorate the lot of the poor?—I am not aware of any plan which will be effectual under the present monetary system.

You mentioned that the land, under proper management, would always be capable of maintaining increased population, what means might be adopted for the attainment of that end?—By that increase of the circulating medium which would give to the farmer a profit in so cultivating his land; this is the only way of ensuring cultivation, and with cultivation the only means of ensuring the employment of labour.

Do you not admit that the practice of making up wages out of the poor's rates arose before we actually resumed cash payments; that it arose during the war?—I am not aware of its arising to any great extent, except in years of famine or scarcity; when famine or scarcity pressed very heavily, it was resorted to, but it did not become a general practice, I think, till after the general distress which followed the measure of 1819.

Are you not aware that in several counties it did prevail for some years before the year 1819?—I cannot say that of my own knowledge I am aware of that fact. As a general principle, certainly not in the counties with which I am acquainted.

You may have heard of it, perhaps, as existing in Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire?—I cannot say that I have; it was not to such extent as to attract notice: I own it had not attracted my notice.

Was not there a system of allowance in loaves?—I am not at all aware of it.

Supposing it to have so commenced, you would admit that it is that which tends more than anything to the demoralization of the people, and is the greatest evil of the whole?—The payment of labour out of poor's rates is a very great evil, but it is an evil which is caused by the general distress which prevails in agriculture, and is not an evil *per se*; it is created by the general pressure on agriculture. There were several steps taken before 1819 for preparing for the measure of diminution of cash payments; and whenever the country has relaxed from that measure it has found a corresponding return of prosperity.

In the early part of your evidence you spoke about a number of Irish and Welsh labourers that come to assist in the harvest time in Worcestershire; what proportion may they bear to the general stock of labourers?—I really do not know; but so many, that during the last two summers I have been called out to settle disputes with our own labourers trying to thrash them out of the place. A considerable quantity of corn was spoiled in our neighbourhood by the want of Irish labourers; after they threatened to beat them, and did beat them, they went away, and we were left without sufficient hands.

Are you yourself an agriculturist?—I have been all my life very fond of it, and have always practised it.

Though the farmers may be glad to make use of these strangers, do not the labourers consider it a grievance that the most profitable part of their year should be interfered with?—Yes; but without that we should not have the means of collecting our harvest during the time the corn was in a proper state to be secured.

Do you recollect whether there has been a difference in the rate of harvest work since they began to give their assistance?—No doubt they have brought down the rate of payment.

Is it not the case in Worcestershire, that the harvest wages were always considered as a great object to be obtained with a view to their maintenance during the winter, when there was less work, and probably lower wages?—Yes, certainly; but we should not have enough with our own population only.

What reason is there why it is more necessary to employ strangers in the collection of the harvest in Worcestershire in modern times?—I conceive within the last

last ten or twelve years a great change has taken place in the mode of cultivation. Lands that used to grow chiefly rye and barley, which ripened at different times from wheat, are thrown into the growth of wheat much more largely in our neighbourhood than they used to be; therefore the harvest ripens much more simultaneously, and harvest work is confined to a shorter period.

Is there a larger quantity of land applied to the produce of grain in Worcestershire than used to be?—I think there is; and I think in all the parts of the kingdom through which I have travelled.

You say that of late land is more applied to the produce of wheat than it used to be; is any of the heavier land withdrawn at all from arable cultivation?—I think not; I think the reverse; and every thing which tends to decrease the capital of the farmer tends to bring a great deal more land under the growth of wheat, because it requires greater capital to stock a grazing farm than it does to stock a plough farm, and because a farm that has been under grass for some time, being broken up, will afford capital to the farmer; he will get a profit upon it which he could not get in any other way. The landlords, in consequence of the pressure on their tenants, have been obliged to wink at that sort of cultivation which they would not have permitted had the farmer been in a more prosperous state.

If all labourers were profitably employed in Wales and in Ireland as well as in this country, how could an emigration of labourers take place from one district to another for the purpose of assisting to get in the harvest?—Emigration would still take place, because the climate is so different in various parts of Ireland, that the labourers would find it to their advantage to come to our harvest, and return to their own.

You have stated, in a former part of your evidence, that you consider food and raiment as capital applicable to the cultivation of land, and it was your opinion that the means of employing that capital must depend upon the amount of the circulating medium of the country, and of the fixed payments which are to be made?—I do; and it is from that circulating medium not having been sufficient that the truck system has been created, which has substituted the payment of food and clothes instead of payment of money; and I very greatly doubt the policy of an attempt to put down that measure, and I doubt it upon two grounds: it either will or will not be effectual; if it is effectual, it will stop a great many works which are now carried on entirely by capital which the truck system affords to them for carrying on those works; if it is not effectual, and is evaded, it will be evaded by an increased risk, from the legislative alteration, and that increased risk will induce the manufacturer to deal out his commodities on still worse terms to the persons whom he employs, in order to cover the increased risk so imposed.

Are you not of opinion that the means of employing labourers, and that the wealth or poverty of the country must depend, not only upon the food and raiment that country may yield, but also on the circumstances of the amount of money that is in circulation?—No doubt, in the present civilized state of society.

Some years ago a very large capital was laid out in foreign mining speculations and matters of that nature, and was lost; supposing that capital had been expended, either profitably or unprofitably, in Ireland, in reclaiming wastes and draining bogs, and improvements of the general agricultural system of that country, do not you think that would have taken up the greater part of that surplus of Irish labour which now comes for its market into this country, and that the farmers of this country would have been reduced to the necessity of seeking in their own country for that labour which was necessary for the cultivation of their farms, and that an equilibrium would by that means have been established between those parts of England which have either really, or, as you would say, perhaps, apparently, surplus labour, and those which have not?—It certainly would have added very much to the real prosperity of Ireland, had the money which has been lost in foreign speculations of that nature been expended in the improvement of Ireland; but I do not exactly see how that would have had the effect of equalizing the population between the different districts of England.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

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The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells, a Member of the Committee, is Examined as follows:

HAS your Lordship turned your attention to the effect of the cultivation of small allotments of land by the labouring classes?—I have.

Will you state in what places?—I first adopted the plan at Willingham, near Cambridge, in the year 1806; and I let to some of the poor there a small portion of land, about a quarter of an acre each; but the plan was afterwards carried on by me, more largely, on the demesne at Wells.

Did you impose any rent upon those allotments?—The rent I have always imposed has been the same as the rent paid to the farmers, and I have done this with a view that no person might be deterred by the lowness of the rent from adopting the same system.

Do you make them subject to the usual charges incidental to land?—No; the demesne at Wells is not subject to them.

That has been an advantage to them?—It has.

Will your Lordship have the goodness to state the extent to which you have now adopted the same system near the city of Wells?—There are three fields, fifteen acres in each, making in all forty-five acres, which I have divided among the poor in the neighbourhood, in quarters of an acre, and half-acres, depending upon the size of the family; and there have been one or two individuals alone to whom I have given an acre. I have also let land to the poor at Mendip, which is at a greater distance from the city, to nearly the same amount.

At what rent have you let that land?—They have it at the rent which was paid by the tenant to myself before I let it to the poor: that in the immediate neighbourhood of Wells was at the rate of two guineas an acre. All the land is tithe-free, and is subject to no deductions, being part of the ancient demesne of the bishoprick.

Can you state the produce?—I have inquired particularly of the occupiers: they almost all agree in saying that a quarter of an acre will produce 20 sacks of potatoes, each sack containing three bushels, the average price of which, as far as can be ascertained, varies from 1 s. 9 d. to 2 s. a bushel; therefore the produce from a quarter of an acre will be from 5 l. to 6 l.

Do they cultivate potatoes only?—They are at liberty to make what profit they can from the land; I have promised it to them during my episcopate. But besides potatoes they grow also other vegetables and cabbages, along the rows, for their spring or winter consumption.

Are those allotments near their habitations?—They are within a quarter of a mile of the city of Wells.

Do they find any difficulty in procuring a sufficient quantity of manure to render that land productive?—They manage, I believe, all of them, to procure manure sufficient. The land has borne a crop of potatoes each year for six years, and each crop has been an improving one: they have had wheat on some few of the allotments, but potatoes are the general crop.

Does your Lordship know whether they purchase manure for the purpose of laying it on the land, or whether that manure is produced by their own cattle?—Some few of them purchase, I believe, a little manure; but in general, by management, they procure it for themselves; which is, I think, one of the advantages arising out of the plan.

What stock do those allotments enable them to keep?—Some of the poor have a pig, but I do not think any of them have other stock; nor do I encourage their purchase of a cow, as it would be a risk, and few of them would have the means, I think, of keeping it.

Have any of them attempted to plant any part of their allotments with fruit trees?—No, none: that never was a part of their plan, nor of my own.

Does your Lordship give any further assistance to these persons?—Yes; I fix the payment to be made on a certain day, and if they pay at the time appointed, they have a deduction given to them. I give also a premium to those who produce the best, the second best, and the third best crop, which is a stimulus to industry; they are proud of gaining the prize.

Can your Lordship state what is the rate of wages in the neighbourhood of Wells?—I am afraid it does not, upon an average, amount to 9 s. a week in the neighbourhood of Wells; of course it varies, but I fear the average is lower than that. I never give less; but less is given.

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What is the rent of the cottages in the neighbourhood of Wells?—We have not a great number of what may be called cottages; the occupiers live in or near the suburbs of the city; their rent in general is about three guineas.

Do you know whether the labourers who have this produce receive any parochial relief?—Some do, and some do not; but I think fewer now than did before. In general, however, the poor do receive parochial relief, unless they are regularly employed by the farmers in the neighbourhood for the year.

Do people in regular employment, and earning the wages of 9s. a week, receive any allowance from the parish?—I do not think, if it were known that they received 9s. a week, that the overseer would in any instance give them any other allowance; unless, indeed, they had very large families. I do not mean to say that they never do, but I think in general, if they did earn 9s. a week, that they would not receive any parochial pay.

Can your Lordship state whether they live in a state of comparative comfort upon those wages, together with the allotments let to them by you?—My own labourers appear to be perfectly satisfied with their pay, as I asked whether that was the case, and they said that it was so. This year and the last have been years of unusual suffering; but with the pay and land they declared themselves satisfied.

Is fuel cheap in the neighbourhood of Wells?—Coals are very reasonable at Wells: they get them from a place about ten miles off. When I distribute them I pay a guinea and a half at the pit for a waggon load, exclusive of the carriage.

What sum weekly is sufficient to find a cottager in coals?—I should think that for about 1s. per week they might get coals that would do tolerably well for that time.

What have the poor's rates been in the city of Wells?—Not paying rates for my land, I can hardly with sufficient accuracy say what the poor's rates are. There is a vestry meeting holden once a week, and they regulate the poor's rate according to circumstances.

Has there been much distress?—The poor have suffered very much during last winter and this. I never rode out but I met with persons begging for employment. I employ many, but cannot employ all.

Are they employed upon the roads?—When they have no other employment, they are engaged by the overseers in breaking stones for the roads: they have in the winter a large number of men employed in that way.

Do they express any dissatisfaction with their condition?—They do complain very much. I have seen them breaking stones, and asked what they got. They have said, that some of them earned 8d., and some 1s. per day; but they complained very much.

Can your Lordship state the amount of population?—The population of the parishes is above 6,000; consisting of two parishes, the in-parish and the out-parish; and they have distinct rates.

Can you state the number of acres in the parishes?—I really cannot with that accuracy with which I would wish to answer the question; but I believe there are about 13,800 acres.

Is there any manufacture in Wells which absorbs any part of the population?—There is now hardly any manufacture at all; very little employment for the poor.

When your Lordship first had the diocese, was there any manufacture which employed them?—There was then one.

Does your Lordship not think that the want of employment tends to demoralize the labouring classes?—Undoubtedly, in every way.

Is your Lordship of opinion that those persons who have had the small allotments of land let to them are generally better behaved than those who have not that interest in the soil?—Decidedly so: they are improved very greatly, not only in their morals, but in their manners, in their appearance, and their comforts.

Is your Lordship of opinion that last year the sufferings of the labouring classes in the district with which you are best acquainted was very severe?—Very severe indeed; as I observed before, distressingly severe, to every man of humanity. I speak from that which I saw. I have not taken the report of others, but have ascertained the fact from my own knowledge.

Is your Lordship aware that it has been the practice in certain parts of England to employ paupers in drawing carts?—What has been the custom in other parts of England I do not know, but I have seen persons drawing coals myself; whether that was voluntary on their part, or whether it was required of them, I am not able to say, nor whether it still continues to be done.

Bishop of
Bath and Wells.
22 February,
1831.

Is not your Lordship particularly averse to men being so degraded?—Decidedly so; but their distresses, I suppose were such, that they were glad to be employed in that or any other manner.

Does your Lordship know whether they earned sufficient wages in that manner to render them satisfied?—I should think not.

Has your Lordship ever heard them make any observations to the effect that they were willing to do any work to support their families, but that they saw no reason why they should be degraded to the situation of convicts?—No. I imagined it was their distress which induced them to submit to such employment; but whether that was the case or not, I am not able to say.

How many men were drawing the carts loaded with coals to which you refer?—I should think eight or ten to each cart.

Does your Lordship know that they were compelled by the overseers of the poor to do this?—I have no knowledge whatever upon this point.

Is your Lordship aware that in some parts of the country men are employed by the road surveyors to draw stones upon the roads, and that they are anxious for such employment at the wages given?—I have never seen them drawing stones; that to which I have alluded was the drawing of coals.

Has your Lordship drawn the heads of a Bill to improve the condition of the labouring classes, and to lessen the demands on the parochial rates?—I have drawn up heads of a Bill with that view, and with the permission of the Committee I will place it upon the table.

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:]

HEADS of a PLAN to improve the Condition of the Labouring Poor, and lessen the Demands on the Parochial Funds.

1. TO give additional Legislative Facilities to the affording small Allotments of Land to the Poor.
2. Such Allotments to be apportioned as near as possible to the Dwellings of the Poor.
3. The Rent demanded to be the same as what the Farmer would pay for it.
4. The Land to be let for a Period of Time, provided the Conditions on letting it be fulfilled.
5. The Quantity to vary with the size and circumstances of the Family, but not to exceed an Acre.
6. The Land to be cultivated only by Manual Labour, and a certified quantity of Manure to be laid upon it annually.
7. If the Conditions be not complied with, the Overseer to recover Possession by a summary process before a Magistrate.
8. The Land to pay no more for Tithe than the Average of the Composition for Ten preceding Years.
9. Wherever it be deemed practicable by the Magistrates acting in and for the Division, the Parish Officers may be compelled to set out small Portions of Land for the Poor.
10. The Overseers to be enabled to let out to the Poor parts of a Common or Waste, with the assent of Three-fourths of the Proprietors of the same.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Friday next, Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 25th Februarii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend Thomas Whateley, is called in; and Examined as follows:

Rev.
Thomas Whateley.
25 February,
1831.

WHERE do you reside?—At Cookham, in Berkshire. Half the town of Maidenhead is in that parish. It is on the confines of the county.

How long have you resided in that part of the country?—Turned of 33 years.

Is the parish you reside in a large parish?—A very large one.

Do you know the number of acres?—To speak in round numbers, 7,000.

Do you know the population?—The population in the year 1821, was 2,754; I believe it is rather turned of 3,000 now. There are 640 or 650 houses in the parish.

What is the principal part of the land, arable or meadow land?—Chiefly arable; there is some meadow land on the borders of the Thames.

Do you know the amount of poor rates which were collected last year in that parish?—One shilling and sixpence in the pound.

On what valuation?—On the valuation of 1*l.* an acre to the arable land, 40*s.* an acre to the meadow land, and 5*s.* an acre for the great tithe. The land lets from 30*s.* to 40*s.* an acre, independent of tithe. The houses in the parish are rated at two-thirds of the value; but it falls short of the two-thirds; so that the parish is rated very far below that proportion.

Are there many people out of employment in your parish?—I think, in the course of the year, there has been perhaps from six to ten, or it may be a dozen.

Able-bodied men?—Able-bodied men. I think I have rather over-stated that, perhaps I might say eight, during the frost and while the snow was upon the ground. I have prepared a history of each family in the parish, from six weeks old to the oldest person in it (*producing it*). The town of Maidenhead is a very large town; it is a corporation; and it has a chapel entirely independent of the vicar, and it appoints its own chaplain; so that there is a very large population which, though they are included within my parish, are not under my jurisdiction at all; and as they are three miles off, it is almost impossible for me to be so well acquainted with them as I could wish to be.

Do you include those in the 3,000?—Yes, and in the number of houses; but the taking the account of such a town as Maidenhead, so thronged with population, is almost impossible.

[The Witness produces the Account made out by him.]

Can you inform the Committee what is the rate that the farmers in that parish have paid their labourers previous to the late disturbances?—From 10*s.* to 15*s.* a week: 10*s.* a week for a single man, who goes with horses; and 15*s.* a week for a man who is thrashing wheat. I have taken the account of the farmers in the parish; and I have before me an account of the labourers of one farm in the parish, which will serve as a criterion to the others.

Do you mean their day wages?—I mean their day wages, 10*s.* a week; the 15*s.* a week is for thrashing wheat by the quarter: 10*s.* a week is the usual earnings of a carter's man at day labour.

There are some married men probably at day wages; is there any difference in their wages?—There is no difference in the wages for day labour.

When you say a labourer who goes with horses, do you mean a carter?—Yes.

What do they give the other labourers?—They have the same.

Have you a statement of the price of labour in any one farm in your parish?—I have. This is the statement of labour in one farm in the parish. I dipped into the Farmer's book, and took it out myself.

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:]

- No. 1.—Ten shillings per week; single; goes with the horses.
- No. 2.—Twelve shillings per week; married; no child; works in the garden.
- No. 3.—Fourteen shillings per week; thrashing oats, at 9*s.* per quarter.
- No. 4.—Fourteen shillings per week; barley at 2*s.* 6*d.* per quarter.
- No. 5.—Fourteen shillings per week; barley at 2*s.* 6*d.* per quarter.
- No. 6.—Wheat, at 4*s.*; 15*s.* per week.
- No. 7.—Wheat, at 4*s.*; 15*s.* per week.
- No. 8.—Ten shillings per week, winter wages; 70 years old.
- No. 9.—Thirteen shillings per week; shepherd; two sheep in the flock worth 3*l.*
- No. 10.—Two boys, 4*s.* and 3*s.*
- No. 11.—Two boys, 4*s.* and 3*s.*
- No. 12.—Boy, 3*s.*; 14 years.
- No. 13.—Ditto 3*s.*; 15 years.
- No. 14.—Seventy-seven years, 1*s.*

When was the labour so paid for?—It was in the present winter, just before the Special Commission.

Have you any reason to believe that the price of labour has been increased since the disturbances?—I am sure it has not in my parish.

Rev.
Thomas Whately.

25 February,
1831.

Do not you consider that the labouring classes are well off in your parish?—I think they are better off than I have ever seen them since I have known them. In the year 1793, and for several years before that period, the rate of wages was 8s. per week, and wheat sold at 16*l.* per load; now wheat sells at from 17*l.* 10*s.* to 18*l.*, and wages are 10*s.*, while all sorts of linen and calico are not a third of the price they were at in the above year of 1793.

Do you attribute that to the good management of the parish?—I do.

Have you prepared any statement upon that subject?—I have.

Have the goodness to read the same?—The system of management introduced by the select vestry of the parish of Cookham has been attended with very beneficial effects both to the rate-payer and to the poor. To the former it has saved in eight years up to Lady-day last, compared with the preceding eight years, no less a sum than 15,008*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* To the latter it has been equally beneficial, by introducing habits of frugality, industry, and providence, which have been strongly marked by their beneficial effects. Only one bastard child has been registered in either of the two last years. The system is simple, and may be accommodated to the circumstances of most agricultural parishes. Its leading features are the employment of the able-bodied poor, who apply for relief, at low wages and at hard work by the piece, showing them that the parish is the hardest taskmaster and the lowest paymaster they can apply to. Never giving anything in aid of labour, rent, or rates. Dividing the paupers in the workhouse into two classes: the old, infirm, and impotent form the first; the idle, improvident, and vicious constitute the second. To the former is allowed an ample supply of butcher's meat and other suitable food; to the second class nothing but bread and cheese. None are allowed to absent themselves from the workhouse, or to receive visitors within its walls, without an express and written order from an overseer. Every possible encouragement is given to honest industry, providence and frugality, by the establishment of a saving bank, a friendly society, a lying-in charity, and all other means that can be devised. Young persons going to service are allowed an outfit of clothes; and a member of the friendly society is always received by the select vestry with marked attention. I cannot help adding, that during the late troubles there has been no fire, no riot, no threatening letter, in the parish. In the midst of a district that has been particularly disturbed, Cookham and White Waltham (where a similar system has been adopted) have entirely escaped, although in Cookham there are several threshing machines, and the only paper mill has been newly fitted up with machinery. The poor of Cookham have subscribed during the last summer for the purchase of coals, which were delivered to them in November, 121*s.* They have purchased linen, calico, and other clothing during the year, at prime cost, to the amount of 160*l.* The friendly society (which insures to a subscribing member during sickness 8*s.* a week, and 5*l.* for the funeral in case of death,) consists of about 100 members. To a penny club, within the year, in the village of Cookham and its immediate neighbourhood, has been subscribed 48*l.*; and the contributions to the saving bank have been uniform and regular, and amounted at Lady-day last to the sum of 3,544*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.* In speaking of the money the poor have expended in clothing, I should say that they have bought their clothing of me; therefore it is only that part of the parish over which I have any superintendence. I mention that lest I should be supposed to be speaking of the whole parish: sometimes I am speaking only of that part which is not within the corporation of Maidenhead.

Are the rates higher in that part of the parish which is under the corporation of Maidenhead?—No; the rates of the parish are the same, and the management of the parish is the same; but anything of charity, such as selling the poor clothing at prime cost, or anything relating to private charities, refers only to that part of the parish over which I have the superintendence; not that within the corporation of Maidenhead: they have their own clergyman, and they have a subscription for coals and other things there, of which I know nothing.

What is the price of fuel in that part of the country?—From 1*s.* 6*d.* to 1*s.* 8*d.* a bushel; in the subscription for coals there is 121*s.* put in, which ensures to the poor 121 bushels. I paid the difference between the 1*s.* and the 1*s.* 6*d.*, which I am enabled to do by the kindness of Sir William Pepys, my brother-in-law.

They have an advantage from charity?—They have an advantage in fuel; they put in that in the hopes of obtaining an advantage; and they have an advantage in clothing, inasmuch as they are enabled to pay for the clothing when it suits their

their convenience; and I can go to a better market than they do. I sell it for what it costs me; it costs me nothing but the little trouble that attends it.

Is it the practice of your parish to bind out persons as apprentices?—Hardly ever; there have been one or two instances, but very seldom.

Can you state the premium generally given?—I cannot.

Have you a statement of the comparative amount of the poor rates in your parish previous to the select vestry, and subsequent?—I have.

Will you have the goodness to put it in?

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:]

YEARS.	Money spent.	Price of Peck Leaf in July every Year.	Number of Peck Leaves.	Deficit £. 338 in Peck Leaves at the Price of Bread in each Year.	Number of Peck Leaves consumed by the Poor in each Year.
	£. s. d.	s. d.			
1812-13	3,907 10 -	at 6 8	11,722	1,016	10,706
1813-14	3,703 8 -	- 6 8	10,011	1,098	10,915
1814-15	3,039 12 1	- 4 -	14,638	1,690	13,948
1815-16	3,365 5 6	- 3 10	17,036	1,785	15,251
1816-17	3,303 - -	- 4 4	15,844	4,680	13,164
1817-18	3,800 10 8	- 5 8	13,413	1,193	12,220
1818-19	3,336 5 4	- 4 2	15,054	1,622	13,432
1819-20	3,333 7 5	- 3 6	17,999	1,831	15,968
1820-21	3,416 4 -	- 3 6	13,806	1,831	11,975
1821-22	2,608 9 8	- 2 10	18,412	2,385	16,027
1822-23	1,857 10 5 1/2	- 2 10	13,113	2,385	10,727
1823-24	1,397 5 10	- 3 3	8,414	2,080	6,334
1824-25	1,097 11 9	- 3 7	6,125	1,886	4,239
1825-26	806 16 6	- 3 6	5,606	1,631	3,975
1826-27	1,162 10 10	- 3 -	7,354	2,354	4,999
1827-28	1,039 16 4 1/2	- 3 -	6,744	2,664	4,080
1828-29	1,155 3 11	- 3 -	7,463	2,664	4,828
1829-30	1,155 1 - 1/2	- 3 6	6,600	2,269	4,341

N.B.—£. 338 is the average of county rates, church rates, law expenses, and salaries, for the years 1823-24, 1824-25, 1825-26.

The Witness also delivers in an Extract from a Statement of the poor rates for the county of Berks, taken from a Paper printed by Order of the House of Commons, entitled "Local Taxation, calculated in peck leaves, as in the former case.

[The same is read, and is as follows:]

IN THE YEARS	Money spent.	Price of a Peck Leaf in July in each Year.	Number of Leaves it would purchase.
	£.	s. d.	
1813 - - - -	180,872	6 2	531,747
1814 - - - -	179,868	4 -	648,340
1815 - - - -	100,297	3 10	523,488
1816 - - - -	105,815	4 4	488,376
1817 - - - -	141,870	5 8	500,717
1818 - - - -	157,059	4 2	758,203
1819 - - - -	143,243	3 6	818,531
1820 - - - -	123,280	3 6	704,457
1821 - - - -	112,659	2 10	796,240
1822 - - - -	104,338	2 10	736,503
1823 - - - -	84,018	3 3	522,572
1824 - - - -	91,110	3 7	506,520
1825 - - - -	95,189	3 6	543,637
1826 - - - -	101,279	3 -	675,193
1827 - - - -	99,527	3 -	663,513
1828 - - - -	96,358	3 -	647,120
1829 - - - -	105,624	3 6	603,565

[The Witness then delivers in the Accounts of the Parish Expenditure in the parish, which are read, and are as follow:]

Rev.
Thomas Whately.

25 February,
1831.

A LIST of PERSONS who have received regular Weekly and Occasional Relief from the Overseers of the Parish of Cookham, from 25th March 1824 to 25th March 1825.

Paid to each.	Names of Paupers.	Age.	No. of Children.	Weekly Relief.	Cause of Relief.	Residence.
s. d.				s. d.		
2 10 -	Ayres, Thomas	47	6	2 -	Family	Cookham Deane.
2 12 -	Aldridge, Charlotte	6	-	1 -	Bastard	Cookham.
3 18 -	Blight, Mary	11	-	1 6	Bastard	Twyford Silk Mills.
1 10 -	Beck, widow	67	-	1 -	Aged	Cookham.
7 10 -	Bishop, widow	48	2	3 -	Family	Cookham Deane.
2 12 -	Bristow, Martha	31	1	1 -	Bastard	Pinkney's Green.
2 10 -	Barker, William	37	6	2 -	Pay taken off	Cookham Deane.
2 13 -	Brent, widow	-	2	2 -	Family	Maidenhead.
2 18 6	Barry's child	11	-	1 6	Father dead	North Town.
1 12 6	Bolton's wife	72	-	2 6	Cripple	Pay taken off.
4 10 -	Bradley, widow	31	2	6 -	Family	Pay taken off.
12 10 -	Brown, widow	32	4	5 -	Family	Pigsey's Green.
4 18 -	Bowden, Ruth	24	-	2 -	Illness	Grove.
2 18 -	Carter, Susanna	13	-	1 6	Bastard	Twyford Silk Mills.
2 12 -	Cartland, —	32	1	1 -	Bastard	Cookham Deane.
2 18 -	Caradice, Jane	30	1	1 -	Bastard	Cookham.
2 12 -	Cattle, Jane	30	1	1 -	Bastard	Taplow.
7 10 -	Charlton, John	72	2	3 -	Aged	Maidenhead.
6 18 -	Collins, widow	41	3	6 -	Family	Ben. Pay taken off.
2 10 -	Chapman, Sarah	40	-	2 6	Infant	Ben.
2 12 -	Cutter, widow	62	-	1 -	Aged	Cookham Deane.
5 4 -	Chittis, widow	72	-	2 -	Aged	Cookham.
2 - -	Cliff, widow	77	-	2 -	Aged	Pay taken off.
2 12 -	Carter's child	10	-	1 -	Bastard	Cookham Deane.
5 4 -	Cartland, Sarah	77	-	2 -	Aged	Cookham.
4 10 -	Cannon, widow	31	2	4 -	Pay taken off	Staines.
5 12 -	Cannon, widow	31	1	1 -	Bastard	Staines.
3 18 -	Copas, Lydia	18	-	1 6	F. and M. dead	Twyford Silk Mills.
3 18 -	Copas, Martha	14	-	1 6	Ditto	Twyford Silk Mills.
2 12 -	Carter, Sarah	27	1	1 -	Bastard	Benzen.
5 4 -	Davis, widow	51	-	2 -	Infant	Cookham.
2 12 -	Dayley, widow	62	-	1 -	Aged	Pinkney's Green.
2 12 -	Dayley, Joseph	9	-	1 -	Bastard	Bazle.
4 - -	Dowding, James	11	-	2 -	Pay taken off	Cookham.
3 18 -	Evans, widow	62	-	1 6	Infant	Maidenhead.
2 12 -	Fox's wife	37	1	1 -	Bastard	Cookham.
4 12 -	Fryday, widow	74	-	1 -	Aged	North Town.
5 4 -	Folley, widow R.	75	-	2 -	Aged	Cookham Deane.
6 6 4	Folley, widow	36	6	6 -	Family	Pay taken off.
2 12 -	Ford's child	-	-	1 -	Father dead	Cookham.
1 7 -	Forster, widow	72	-	1 6	Aged	Dead.
2 18 -	Fry, widow	63	-	1 -	Illness	Dead.
3 18 -	Grove, widow	62	-	1 6	Aged	Cookham.
10 8 -	Gibbins, widow	51	2	4 -	Family	Cookham Deane.
2 12 -	Gray, widow	67	-	1 -	Aged	Cookham Deane.
3 18 -	Gipson, widow	14	-	1 6	Father dead	Twyford Silk Mills.
2 12 -	Haynes, Mary	31	1	1 -	Bastard	Maidenhead.
10 8 -	Haywood, Sarah	42	2	4 -	Bastards	Maidenhead.
2 12 -	Harper, Ann	24	1	1 -	Bastard	Maidenhead.
6 10 -	Hedington, Ann	77	-	2 6	Aged	Cookham.
1 10 -	Henth, Ann	71	-	1 -	Aged	Cookham.
2 12 -	Humphrey, Jane	77	-	1 -	Aged	Cookham.
3 18 -	Hearn, —	51	-	1 6	Pay taken off	Hillingdon.
— - -	Hyller, widow	-	3	3 -	Pay taken off	London.
1 6 -	Horn, Ann	28	1	6 -	Bastard	Marlow.
2 12 -	Johnson, Sarah	24	1	1 -	Bastard	Cockpole.
2 12 -	Klips, Harriet	38	1	1 -	Bastard	Field.
2 14 -	Kelcy, William	71	-	1 -	Pay taken off	—
2 12 -	Lawgrove, William	52	-	1 -	Aged	Cookham Deane.
2 12 -	Lacey, widow	57	-	1 -	Infant	Cookham.
2 12 -	Lawe, Lucy	37	1	1 -	Bastard	Birfield.

Paid to each.	Names of Paupers.	Age.	No. of Children.	Weekly Relief.	Cause of Relief.	Residence.
£. s. d.						
1 2 -	More, William -	11	-	1 -	Father dead -	Stanlake.
1 4 -	Marshall, widow -	52	2	5 -	Pay taken off -	Maidenhead.
3 18 -	More, Sarah -	14	-	1 6	Father dead -	Twyford 8th Mills.
3 18 -	Munday, Ann -	18	-	1 6	-	Twyford 8th Mills.
7 15 -	Neighbour, Hannah -	37	-	3 -	Infirm -	Cookham.
5 12 -	Neighbour, Ann -	63	-	1 -	Aged -	Cookham.
3 7 -	Parker, Elizabeth -	30	2	2 -	Bastards -	Pigsey's Green.
3 12 -	Paul, Sarah -	24	1	1 -	Bastard -	Maidenhead.
3 12 -	Paul, Mary -	28	1	1 -	Bastard -	Maidenhead.
- 10 -	Paul, Edward -	13	-	2 -	Infirm -	Pay taken off.
3 12 -	Rackly, Sophia -	25	1	1 -	Bastard -	Hunt.
2 15 -	Shepherd, widow -	77	-	1 -	Aged -	Marlow.
3 15 -	Stark, Judith -	73	-	1 -	Aged -	Cookham.
- 4 -	Smith, Hantley -	77	-	2 -	Aged -	M. Since dead.
4 10 -	Smith, widow -	47	3	5 -	Family -	Cookham.
4 15 -	Skinner's children -	-	2	4 -	Father dead -	Pay taken off.
2 12 -	Slansker, Edith -	27	1	1 -	Bastard -	Benson.
7 15 -	Sandles, Francis -	82	-	3 -	Aged -	Cookham Deane.
2 12 -	Silver, widow -	62	-	1 -	Aged -	Cookham Deane.
2 15 -	Simmmonds, Mary -	24	1	1 -	Bastard -	Cookham.
6 10 -	Sawyer, Mary -	55	-	2 6	Aged -	Cookham.
2 15 -	Stevens, Jane -	78	-	1 -	Aged -	Cookham.
20 8 -	Sears and wife -	82	-	4 -	Aged -	Cookham.
2 15 -	Tubb, widow -	67	-	1 -	Aged -	Cookham.
5 4 -	Taylor, widow -	72	-	2 -	Aged -	Maidenhead.
1 10 -	Thomas, Lydia -	15	-	1 6	Father ill -	Pay taken off.
5 4 -	Thomas, Sarah -	10	-	3 -	Father ill -	Wootton.
5 4 -	Wicks, widow -	72	-	2 -	Aged -	Cookham Deane.
2 12 -	Woolhouse, Sarah -	27	1	1 -	Bastard -	Benson.
10 8 -	Wills, widow -	27	3	4 -	Family -	Cookham Deane.
-	Warwick, widow -	-	2	3 -	Pay taken off -	London.

OCCASIONAL RELIEF.

Paid to each.	Names of Paupers.	Residence.
£. s. d.		
1 - -	Silvester Rance -	Tyldes Mills.
- 10 -	Berles Smith -	Wootton.
- 1 -	William Stone -	Cookham.
- 13 9	Thomas Nibbs -	Cookham Deane.
- 8 -	Widow Wells -	Maidenhead.
- 3 -	Widow Evans -	Maidenhead.
- 6 -	Widow Berrington -	Maidenhead.
1 10 -	William Bolton -	Maidenhead.
- 10 -	Jane Dyer -	Burchett's Green.
- 8 -	Widow Wilder -	Cookham.
2 5 5 1/2	Robert Ayres -	Bray Wick.
3 4 -	George Mayor -	North Town.
1 4 -	William Barker -	Cookham Deane.
- 3 6	George Brown -	North Town.
- 4 6	Widow Tubb -	Cookham.
- 4 9	Widow Marshall -	Maidenhead.
3 15 -	John Povey's wife -	Maidenhead.
1 10 -	Widow Emmett -	Maidenhead.
1 - -	John Povey, jun. -	Abingdon.
- 5 3	John Oakley -	Maidenhead.
- 1 -	John Wicks -	Maidenhead.
- 12 -	James Hester -	Cookham Deane.
5 10 6	W. Middleton and wife -	Cookham Deane.
1 16 -	Benjamin Taylor -	Cookham Deane.
1 5 -	George Allen -	Cookham.
- 5 -	Widow Smith -	North Town.
-	Widow Thomas -	North Town.
1 8 3 1/2	Richard Falley's wife -	Cookham Deane.

Abstract of the Proceedings: Nov. 1914. Month 1914, to each Month, 1915.

Name	Height			Weight			Age			Education			Occupation			Marital Status			Religion		
	Feet	Inches	Centimeters	Pounds	Kilograms	Stones	Years	Months	Days	Primary	Secondary	Tertiary	Employer	Industry	Profession	Spouse	Children	Religion	Party	Membership	
1st Double Entry	5	8	175	150	68	15	6	15	High School	College	Graduate	Teacher	Public	Accountant	Accountant	Married	2	Catholic	Democrat	Active	
2nd Double Entry	5	7	165	140	60	14	5	14	High School	College	Graduate	Engineer	Private	Engineer	Engineer	Married	1	Protestant	Republican	Active	
3rd Double Entry	5	6	155	130	55	13	4	13	High School	College	Graduate	Doctor	Private	Doctor	Doctor	Married	3	Jewish	Democrat	Active	
4th Double Entry	5	5	145	120	50	12	3	12	High School	College	Graduate	Nurse	Public	Nurse	Nurse	Married	1	Muslim	Democrat	Active	
5th Double Entry	5	4	135	110	45	11	2	11	High School	College	Graduate	Artist	Private	Artist	Artist	Married	2	Buddhist	Democrat	Active	
6th Double Entry	5	3	125	100	40	10	1	10	High School	College	Graduate	Writer	Private	Writer	Writer	Married	1	Hindu	Democrat	Active	
7th Double Entry	5	2	115	90	35	9	0	9	High School	College	Graduate	Actor	Private	Actor	Actor	Married	2	Sikh	Democrat	Active	
8th Double Entry	5	1	105	80	30	8	0	8	High School	College	Graduate	Dancer	Private	Dancer	Dancer	Married	1	Jain	Democrat	Active	
9th Double Entry	5	0	95	70	25	7	0	7	High School	College	Graduate	Musician	Private	Musician	Musician	Married	1	Buddhist	Democrat	Active	
10th Double Entry	5	0	85	60	20	6	0	6	High School	College	Graduate	Scientist	Public	Scientist	Scientist	Married	1	Hindu	Democrat	Active	
11th Double Entry	5	0	75	50	15	5	0	5	High School	College	Graduate	Historian	Private	Historian	Historian	Married	1	Jain	Democrat	Active	
12th Double Entry	5	0	65	40	10	4	0	4	High School	College	Graduate	Philosopher	Private	Philosopher	Philosopher	Married	1	Buddhist	Democrat	Active	
13th Double Entry	5	0	55	30	5	3	0	3	High School	College	Graduate	Lawyer	Public	Lawyer	Lawyer	Married	1	Hindu	Democrat	Active	
14th Double Entry	5	0	45	20	0	2	0	2	High School	College	Graduate	Politician	Public	Politician	Politician	Married	1	Jain	Democrat	Active	
15th Double Entry	5	0	35	10	0	1	0	1	High School	College	Graduate	Businessman	Private	Businessman	Businessman	Married	1	Buddhist	Democrat	Active	
16th Double Entry	5	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	High School	College	Graduate	Entrepreneur	Private	Entrepreneur	Entrepreneur	Married	1	Hindu	Democrat	Active	
17th Double Entry	5	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	High School	College	Graduate	Investor	Private	Investor	Investor	Married	1	Jain	Democrat	Active	
18th Double Entry	5	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	High School	College	Graduate	Retiree	Public	Retiree	Retiree	Married	1	Buddhist	Democrat	Active	

Factor of Benefit, p ² (Peak Load)	Year	Money collected, £ s d	Money collected, p ² (Peak Load)	Year	Money collected, £ s d
20 0	1889	1,250 10 0	20 0	1890	1,250 10 0
20 0	1890	1,250 10 0	20 0	1891	1,250 10 0
20 0	1891	1,250 10 0	20 0	1892	1,250 10 0

	Days.	Great Fire.	Workmen.	Reeds.	Ready Made.	New Engines.	Steam.	Steam.	WINDS.
First Entry	12 17 11	12 17 11	12 17 11	12 17 11	12 17 11	12 17 11	12 17 11	12 17 11	12 17 11
Second Entry	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11
Third Entry	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11
Fourth Entry	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11
Fifth Entry	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11
Sixth Entry	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11
Seventh Entry	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11
Eighth Entry	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11
Ninth Entry	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11
Tenth Entry	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11
Eleventh Entry	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11
Twelfth Entry	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11
Thirteenth Entry	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11
Fourteenth Entry	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11
Fifteenth Entry	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11
Sixteenth Entry	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11
Seventeenth Entry	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11
Eighteenth Entry	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11
Nineteenth Entry	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11
Twentieth Entry	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11
Twenty-first Entry	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11
Twenty-second Entry	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11
Twenty-third Entry	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11
Twenty-fourth Entry	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11
Twenty-fifth Entry	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11
Twenty-sixth Entry	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11
Twenty-seventh Entry	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11
Twenty-eighth Entry	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11
Twenty-ninth Entry	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11
Thirtieth Entry	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11
Thirty-first Entry	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11
Thirty-second Entry	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11
Thirty-third Entry	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11
Thirty-fourth Entry	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11
Thirty-fifth Entry	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11
Thirty-sixth Entry	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11
Thirty-seventh Entry	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11
Thirty-eighth Entry	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11
Thirty-ninth Entry	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11
Fortieth Entry	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11
Forty-first Entry	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11
Forty-second Entry	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11
Forty-third Entry	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11
Forty-fourth Entry	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11
Forty-fifth Entry	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11
Forty-sixth Entry	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11
Forty-seventh Entry	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11
Forty-eighth Entry	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11
Forty-ninth Entry	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11
Fiftieth Entry	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11
Fifty-first Entry	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11
Fifty-second Entry	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11
Fifty-third Entry	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11
Fifty-fourth Entry	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11
Fifty-fifth Entry	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11
Fifty-sixth Entry	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11
Fifty-seventh Entry	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11
Fifty-eighth Entry	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11
Fifty-ninth Entry	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11
Sixtieth Entry	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11
Sixty-first Entry	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11
Sixty-second Entry	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11
Sixty-third Entry	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11
Sixty-fourth Entry	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11
Sixty-fifth Entry	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11
Sixty-sixth Entry	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11
Sixty-seventh Entry	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11	19 11 11
Sixty-eighth Entry	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11	20 11 11
Sixty-ninth Entry	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11	21 11 11
Seventieth Entry	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11	22 11 11
Seventy-first Entry	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11	23 11 11
Seventy-second Entry	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11	24 11 11
Seventy-third Entry	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11	25 11 11
Seventy-fourth Entry	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11	26 11 11
Seventy-fifth Entry	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11	27 11 11
Seventy-sixth Entry	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11	28 11 11
Seventy-seventh Entry	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11	29 11 11
Seventy-eighth Entry	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11	30 11 11
Seventy-ninth Entry	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11	31 11 11
Eightieth Entry	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11	1 11 11
Eighty-first Entry	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11	2 11 11
Eighty-second Entry	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11	3 11 11
Eighty-third Entry	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11	4 11 11
Eighty-fourth Entry	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11	5 11 11
Eighty-fifth Entry	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11	6 11 11
Eighty-sixth Entry	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11	7 11 11
Eighty-seventh Entry	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11	8 11 11
Eighty-eighth Entry	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11	9 11 11
Eighty-ninth Entry	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11	10 11 11
Ninetieth Entry	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11	11 11 11
Ninety-first Entry	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11	12 11 11
Ninety-second Entry	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11	13 11 11
Ninety-third Entry	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11	14 11 11
Ninety-fourth Entry	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11	15 11 11
Ninety-fifth Entry	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11	16 11 11
Ninety-sixth Entry	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11	17 11 11
Ninety-seventh Entry	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11	18 11 11</				

Form of Bond, or Trade Limit	Year	Money advanced	Form of Bond, or Trade Limit	Year	Money advanced
a. d.	1849	£1,400 7 6	a. d.	1849	£1,200 5 10
b. d.	1849	£1,400 4 0	b. d.	1849	£1,000 10 0
a. 20.	1849	£1,000 10 0	b. 5.	1849	£500 10 0
a. 10.	1849	£1,000 10 0	a. 10.	1849	£1,000 10 0

20
10

	Region.	Counties.	Wardens.	Parishes.	County Rates.	Excesses.	Salaries.	Lighting.	Sanitary.	TOTALS.
	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i>
First Entry	12 0 0	2 0 0	10 10 0	2 0 0	12 10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	10 10 0	102 0 0
Second Entry	40 0 0	4 0 0	36 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	1 10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	36 10 0	25 10 0
Third Entry	100 0 0	2 10 0	98 10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	98 10 0	89 10 0
Fourth Entry	14 0 0	4 10 0	10 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	10 10 0	10 10 0
Fifth Entry	14 0 0	0 0 0	14 0 0	0 0 0	12 10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	12 10 0	12 10 0
Sixth Entry	15 10 0	4 10 0	11 10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	10 10 0	10 10 0
Seventh Entry	15 10 0	4 10 0	11 10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	10 10 0	0 0 0	10 10 0	10 10 0
Eighth Entry	10 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0	0 0 0	12 10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	12 10 0	12 10 0
Ninth Entry	10 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Tenth Entry	10 0 0	0 0 0	10 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Eleventh Entry	10 0 0	0 0 0	10 0 0	0 0 0	12 10 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	12 10 0	12 10 0
Twelfth Entry	10 0 0	4 0 0	6 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
Thirteenth Entry	10 0 0	0 0 0	10 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0	0 0 0
<i>Total</i>	<i>100 0 0</i>	<i>20 10 0</i>	<i>79 10 0</i>	<i>0 0 0</i>	<i>100 0 0</i>	<i>14 10 0</i>	<i>10 10 0</i>	<i>10 10 0</i>	<i>10 10 0</i>	<i>140 0 0</i>

Price of Stock, p' Bushel	Year	Money collected.	Price of Stock, p' Bushel	Year	Money collected.
1 0 0	1860	1,000 0 0	1 0 0	1861	1,000 0 0
2 0 0	1861	2,000 0 0	2 0 0	1862	2,000 0 0
3 0 0	1862	3,000 0 0	3 0 0	1863	3,000 0 0
4 0 0	1863	4,000 0 0	4 0 0	1864	4,000 0 0
5 0 0	1864	5,000 0 0	5 0 0	1865	5,000 0 0
6 0 0	1865	6,000 0 0	6 0 0	1866	6,000 0 0

By
Thomas Stanley,
Clerk of the Poor Law
Commissioners.

Amount of the Poor Rates from 1840 to 1841

	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850
First Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Second Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Third Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fourth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fifth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sixth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Seventh Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Eighth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ninth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Tenth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Eleventh Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twelfth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Thirteenth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fourteenth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fifteenth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sixteenth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Seventeenth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Eighteenth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Nineteenth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twentieth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twenty-first Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twenty-second Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twenty-third Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twenty-fourth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twenty-fifth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twenty-sixth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twenty-seventh Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twenty-eighth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Twenty-ninth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Thirtieth Rate	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Year	1840	1841	1842	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850
1840	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1841	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1842	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1843	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1844	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1845	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1846	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1847	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1848	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1849	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1850	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

	Expenses	Income	Capital	Reserves	Grants	Salaries	Donations	Reserves	Total
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
First Entry	10 10 -	0 1 -	0 1 11	10 10 7	- - -	- - -	- - -	1 10 -	20 2 7
Second Entry	10 10 0	1 0 -	0 1 11	10 10 7	10 10 0	- - -	- - -	- 10 -	10 10 7
Third Entry	10 10 0	1 10 -	0 1 -	10 10 0	- - -	- - -	- - -	0 10 0	10 10 0
Fourth Entry	11 10 -	0 2 0	0 1 0	11 10 0	- - -	10 10 0	- - -	1 10 -	22 10 0
Fifth Entry	10 10 -	1 10 -	0 - -	10 10 -	10 10 0	- - -	- - -	0 10 0	21 10 0
Sixth Entry	10 10 -	1 0 -	0 10 10	10 10 0	- - -	- - -	- - -	0 10 0	21 10 0
Seventh Entry	12 10 -	1 0 -	10 0 0	12 10 0	- - -	10 10 0	- - -	0 0 -	23 10 0
Eighth Entry	10 0 -	0 10 -	0 10 10	10 0 0	10 0 0	- - -	- - -	0 0 -	20 0 0
Ninth Entry	10 0 0	0 2 0	0 10 -	10 0 0	- - -	- - -	- 10 -	0 0 0	10 0 0
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OF THE STATE OF THE POOL LANE

1935

By
The Secretary
to the
Pool Lane

Rev.
Thomas Whateley.
25 February,
1831.

Have you a poorhouse in your parish?—Yes.

Under what Act of Parliament is that?—It is the common old-fashioned poor-house, not under any Act.

What are the regulations of your friendly society?—They are the usual regulations; 8s. a week is allowed to a poor man disabled from illness, and 5*l.* for a funeral.

Are they on Mr. Becher's calculations?—They are. There is no meeting at public-houses or anything of that kind.

How long has the benefit club existed?—Only as long as the select vestry; it was instituted in the second year of the select vestry, by the members of it; about eight years ago.

It has not failed for want of funds?—No; the funds are very strong.

Do you not conceive that a friendly society when under good regulations, is beneficial to the poor?—The most beneficial that can be.

Do you find the poor are disposed to subscribe to a benefit society?—Yes. It was instituted by the farmers, and is managed by them, except that the labouring classes are collectors; but they show no jealousy of the interference of their superiors; on the contrary, they find that it recommends them to their notice.

Have you any fund in addition to the weekly subscription given by the farmers?—Several of the farmers are members. I am a member of the friendly society, among others, and my subscription aids the funds, but I contribute no more than the other members, and I should be entitled to the same benefit as other members.

Is the amount of contribution limited?—Yes; 15*d.* a month.

You state that there is a penny club established in your parish?—That was established by Sir George Young's sister, a little girl, who, when she left the country, turned it over to Mrs. Whateley. I mention that to show that so small a contribution produces so large a sum. They take out the amount of their subscriptions in clothing; they may take it back or spend it in clothing.

The population of that parish is not beyond the means of employment?—There are very few out of employment now, but there used to be sixty before the select vestry.

Do you consider that the select vestry has had beneficial effects upon your parish?—It has reduced the rate from about 3,000*l.* to 1,100*l.*

Has your parish appointed a permanent overseer?—Yes.

Do you find that very beneficial?—Very much so; and the workhouse is very beneficial too, for we find very few of the poor like to come into the workhouse, who would try every trick to get a weekly allowance in money.

When the dissolute are in the workhouse, you state that they are not allowed to go out without permission of the overseer?—Yes.

How do you enforce that regulation?—The door of the yard is kept locked, and no pauper in the workhouse can go out without the door being opened by the keeper of the workhouse.

Have you a governor of the poorhouse?—Yes; and the deputy overseer is likewise governor of the workhouse, as it happens; but we sometimes have had a separate person.

Does the governor of the workhouse contract for the maintenance of the poor? Yes, for the maintenance of those in the house; giving in a bill of fare.

What is the rate of cottage rent?—It is very high indeed.

What is the average?—I can hardly say the average; there are some 6*l.* 10*s.* to 7*l.*, and some as low as 3*l.*

Have they good gardens?—In the part of the parish where I reside they have very good gardens; in the town of Maidenhead none at all.

Do they pay their rents out of their wages?—Yes; they have no assistance from the parish, and they all pay the poor rate.

They pay as high as 6*l.* rent for cottages and gardens?—I am sorry to say as high as 6*l.* 10*s.* without gardens; that is in the town.

What extent have they of garden in Cookham with their cottages?—They have very good gardens in the hamlet called Cookham Town.

Have they a quarter of an acre or half an acre?—Sometimes as much as that, and sometimes less; it is an exceedingly rich soil, and full of fruit trees. I think in all that part of the parish they almost paid their rent by their fruit.

Has

Rev.
Thomas Whately.
25 February,
1831.

Has any assistance been given to the labouring classes in your parish by giving them an allotment of land?—None at all.

Would you suppose that the neighbourhood of Windsor has taken off any of your superfluous population?—Not at all.

You say that the select vestry has lowered the rates from 3,000*l.* a year to 1,100*l.*?—The poor's rates in the year 1812 were nearly 4,000*l.*

You have also added that you think there were a greater number of poor out of employ before the select vestry than now; how do you conceive that the select vestry have provided employment for them?—They have provided employment by setting them to hard work, at low wages, by the grate, by the piece. The consequence was that they found work for themselves. We gave them a piece of ground to trench, hard gravelly ground; and many of the farmers thought we should trench the whole parish; but I believe we never trenched quite half an acre.

As soon as they were sent to work they went away and got work?—Yes. There was one man, who was a postilion, and he was about 60 years old, with a very short jacket and a plaited shirt; he had married a harmaid of about 18, and had one child; and he came to the parish for relief, expecting to have a weekly allowance. We asked him how he came to be out of employment; he said he had had a few words with his master. We recommended him to have a few more, and to try whether he could not make up the difference, for that we had nothing for him except some trenching, which we were afraid he would dislike. He went away; we never heard anything of him from that day to this.

You attribute the great number of persons who were out of employment at that time to their being permitted to remain idle?—Yes; they were sent to the gravel-pits. In the adjoining parish of Wootton, where the riots were very extensive and ruinous, where the paper mills were destroyed, which is divided from Cookham only by the Thames, they have now 65 people out of employment on the roads. Our rates are 1*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; at Wootton they are 10*s.* or 12*s.* in the pound; and so all the way to Berkhamstead; all the way down to the Hoo.

You have stated that the poor fare much better at Cookham, and are maintained at much less expense; what reason can you give why the same plans are not adopted in the adjoining parishes?—I can give no reason, except that I believe it wants a little firmness and a little continued exertion; and what is every body's business is nobody's. They attend now and then at the vestry, and then cease to attend.

Have you observed that the morals of the poor have improved by this management, as well as their condition?—So much so that those who were very disorderly persons are very much the reverse. We have had but one hasty child in the parish the last year, and only one the year before.

Do they marry very early in that parish?—I think they do not marry quite so improvidently as they used to do; sometimes there are very early marriages.

Do you think that the setting them to work has induced them not to marry so early?—The parish refusing them relief.

How are the farmers in the parish?—They are all very respectable persons. We have no gentlemen of large landed property resident in the parish; the landlords live at a distance. The farmers are all remarkably liberal and very well-informed men for their stations in life.

Are they large farms, or small?—Considerable farms; there are about 17 farms about 300 acres to a farm.

Under your plan, there has been no emigration thought of, or at all necessary?—No measure of the kind has been suggested.

Have the rents been lowered?—Not at all: I do not believe that any one farmer has had any reduction of the rents for the last 20 years; I have never heard of one.

Is it good land?—It is good land; some of it is thin land; but I believe the whole rent has been paid; that no landlord has ever relieved his tenant at all. I heard of one considerable farmer applying, and I heard that he was refused.

Are there any allotments of land given to the labourers?—No, no allotments at all. They have usually gardens in Cookham, but not in Maidenhead. Some of the farmers have given the people the headlands of their fields to plant potatoes.

Have they extended to a quarter of an acre?—Some of them probably have extended to that.

Rev.
Thomas Wateley.
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Does not the success of your plan and management depend on the farmers understanding it to be their interest to give liberal wages to their workmen?—No; I do not know that it does. The success of the plan has arisen from our having drawn together and having laid down a certain system of proceeding among ourselves. Till eight years ago I was never in a vestry in my life, excepting upon especial business, such as appointing a churchwarden; and I did not know what the rates of the parish of Cookham were when they were 3,900 *l.*; I did not know whether they were 3,000 *l.* or 300 *l.*

Are the wages of labour higher at Cookham than in the adjoining parishes?—Not at all.

You were understood to say that they get only 15 *s.* a week in the winter by the grate?—Yes, at this time of the year; they get more in the summer.

Have you much employment for the wives and children of the labouring classes?—Not more than in other parishes. They go out at this time of the year at bean-setting; but unfortunately a great many set their beans by the drill.

Is there stone-picking?—Yes, there is.

Do the wives and children earn anything considerable?—Yes; and the women are employed in the summer a good deal at goose-picking. It is a very light soil, and there is a good deal of goose to be hurst.

Has the population increased much of late?—Very much; I think, is comparing the register of christenings from 1795 to the present time, and I am making out an account of the christenings from a period antecedent to 1795 to the same extent (if I can charge my memory with accuracy), it was 770 persons increased from one period to the other.

Have you found since you have adopted this system that the population has not increased with the same rapidity as it did under the former system?—I cannot answer that question accurately, for I do not recollect precisely how it was.

Shall you be able to ascertain this fact for the eight years during which the select vestry have been established, and the eight preceding years?—Undoubtedly.

[The Witness is requested to ascertain the fact, and communicate the result.]

Has the straw plait extended into your county?—No; there used to be a great deal of employment among the poor in lace-making, but that is now at an end.

Have you made any observations as to the age at which persons marry now, since the adoption of the new regulations?—No; I do not know that there is a great deal of difference, not a difference that I can state. I rather flatter myself that there are fewer improvident marriages than there were.

Is your parish liked by the common people, and are they anxious to gain a settlement in it?—No; I think they are not. A very singular incident occurred at the magistrates meeting relating to the question your Lordship asked me. There was a man who was a whitesmith, a good workman, he said he had gained a settlement at Cookham by renting a house in Maidenhead; times were hard with him two years ago, and he wished to return to Cookham, as he said, to get a little money to start him afresh; he was a stranger, having only lived in the parish for a year and a half, so that his settlement was one that required investigation; the person of whom he had rented was dead, which made it rather suspicious; but we thought he was actually settled, and we told him, if he came to us, he would be put into the workhouse, and he put on the second class, as all paupers were; the year he stated himself to have gained the settlement was the year when the rates were the highest: he went back to Sunning Hill, and we heard no more of him. Half a year after this I was attending the bench as a magistrate; a question arose as to a settlement in the adjoining parish of Wootton, just across the water; the question the magistrates had to decide was, to connect a receipt for rent of Lady-day with a receipt for rent of the Christmas following, the intermediate receipt having been given by the niece of the landlord, and he stated that the landlord was ill and in bed with the gout or rheumatism, and could not write the receipt, and that his niece wrote it in his presence. I looked at it with the other magistrates, and thought there was no doubt that the link was properly filled up; but found, on looking at the man, that he was the person who said he had gained the settlement in our parish in 1812; the receipts before that bench were for the year 1824; so that of course he, on second thoughts, thought it best to gain a settlement in Wootton rather than in Cookham.

You have spoken of the advantages the poor derive from your very kindly supplying them with clothing at cost price; how much per cent. do you think

that

that saves them?—I cannot say how much per cent., but it must be very considerable. We buy the goods in large quantities. A liberal individual some years ago made me a present of 60*l.*, which has not been exhausted. I buy that which the poor must want, and if they ask me for anything I take care to get it. Perhaps the great advantage that they derive is, the being able to pay for those things out of their weekly earnings; because I allow them to pay in any sum they please, from 3*d.* to 1*s.* or 2*s.* 6*d.*, so that a poor person can go and take away a pair of blankets in the winter, and be the whole summer in paying for them.

Do you not think it would be a very good thing for the poor, if it could be accomplished, to supply them with every thing without going to the chandlers?—Yes, I think it would; at the same time there are so many conflicting interests it would be difficult to manage it.

Without regarding other interests, would it not be for the benefit of the poor?—Yes; but here is a question which arises: I have never known a chandler, during the years I have known the parish of Cookham, who has got any money. The poor pay more than they ought to do for the article, and those who pay, pay for those who do not. The poor run into debt when the times are hard; and if those articles were supplied from any common fund, I do not know how the inconvenience could be obviated. Though those chandlers are exorbitant in their demands for certain articles, they are beneficial to them in enabling them to get the articles when they could not otherwise.

In point of fact, if you were to have a society to sell to the poor people all those things, and thereby ruin the chandlers, would not they come upon the poor's rates?—Yes: only they would be very few in number; they would not amount to half a dozen in three thousand. There has been a great cry raised against the chandlers; sometimes, no doubt, they are exorbitant in their demands, but in many cases they meet the poor in circumstances in which no other persons could do it. Persons could not be allowed to run in debt with societies as they do with them. I think it would be such a complicated piece of machinery it could not be done.

Have you heard of any of the societies alluded to which are called co-operation societies?—No; there are none of them in our neighbourhood.

Do you not conceive that one of the great advantages of penny clubs is the inducing persons to subscribe during the season of prosperity, that they may purchase clothes during the winter?—Yes.

Have you found any difficulty in getting repayment from the poor?—None at all: I think last year I lost 8*d.* or 9*d.*

Do not you think it would be beneficial to the poor, if, instead of the farmers paying their labourers entirely in money, they gave part in the produce of the land?—No, I do not think it would. The farmer would, perhaps, be induced to give a part of the produce he gave bad. I know a farmer in an adjoining parish who furnishes bacon in part of payment, and they complain that it is not good.

If it was arranged that the labourer should have a certain quantity of pease or barley, would not that be beneficial?—It is very often done by arrangement among themselves. There are none of them who are not in the habit of taking such things from the farmers, and setting them against their wages.

Would not that tend to keep the wages at a fixed price, the labourer having the produce always in proportion to his wages?—I do not know what effect that would have. There is hardly any agricultural labourer who does not deal with his own master for what he wants for his pig, or his corn for bread. Many of the farmers allow their labourers to take what they call tale wheat, or other wheat; but the poor borrow from me money to buy their bread: there are great numbers of them who do so; and I am enabled to afford them this accommodation by the assistance of my friends, not from my own pocket. All those who are provident buy a sack of flour at a time, and they pay me every week the money they would pay to the baker, and thus have the advantage of buying it at the mill at the first hand.

In fact, in your parish the poor have almost every thing that they stand in need of, either from yourself or the farmer?—Yes; I met a large society of the poor some time ago, not during the late troubles, in a district of the parish a considerable way off, and in a large meeting. I suppose there were 50 persons in the room, when I said, there was no person in the parish that need want, for there was no person in the parish that might not have whatever they pleased in money or goods if they came to me to ask for it, unless they were those who had worn out

Rev.
Thomas W. Astley.
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their welcome by fraud. I was enabled to do this by pecuniary assistance from the late Sir W. Peppys, Bart. A clergyman has such power over his people, and hits them in so many different ways if they are fraudulent, that persons that nobody else will trust I can trust with impunity. A few years ago there was a man, who came to be hung very soon afterwards, and who had been a very prodigal and bad man, came and borrowed six guineas of me, and I lent it him, and he paid it me at 2s. 6d. a week. He was afterwards hung.

What are the rents in your parish?—Very high: I think that in the average they are from 30s. to 40s. an acre; perhaps some are as low as 20s.

Do the farmers send their articles to London?—They are only 25 miles from London, consequently they send to London occasionally.

Can you state at all the average produce of wheat upon the acre?—I cannot; I am no farmer.

When you say the rents are high, you mean that the land lets at a great deal per acre in your parish?—Just so.

Upon the whole you are decidedly of opinion that any publicity given to this plan established at Cookham is likely to promote the interests of the poor?—Certainly; I think it may be adopted in every agricultural parish in the kingdom.

Have you any statement of the expenditure of the poor at White Waltham?—I have; it was given me by one of the principal proprietors in the parish.

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:]

		EXPENDITURE of the POOR at White Waltham.					
		£.		s. d.		s. d.	
1812	-	826	3	11	{	4	-
1813	-	775	18	11		6	8
1814	-	815	2	7½	-	6	2
1815	-	806	7	7	-	4	2
1816	-	656	18	9½	-	3	10
1817	-	525	15	8½	-	4	4
1818	-	584	14	11½	-	5	8
1819	-	517	13	-	-	4	2
1820	-	524	1	-½	-	3	6
1821	-	494	17	10	-	3	6
1822	-	280	18	8	-	2	10
1823	-	203	1	11½	-	2	10
1824	-	183	10	2½	-	3	3
1825	-	130	9	5½	-	3	7
1826	-	132	18	8½	-	3	6

In 1822 the population was 795.

In 1825 the county rates were 7s. 4s. 18s. 6d.

The new system is only to relieve by food.

The extent of the parish, 2,800 acres.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

John Barton Esq. is called in; and Examined as follows:

John Barton,
Esq.

WHERE do you reside?—At Stoughton, in Sussex.

Is that in the rape of Chichester?—It is.

How long have you resided in that parish?—About five years.

What is the extent of the parish?—I do not know the number of acres; it is several miles in length.

Do you know the population?—Between 500 and 600.

Are they chiefly employed in agriculture?—Chiefly.

Are the poor rates heavy in that parish at present?—The last year they were 8s. in the pound on the rack rent.

Had you many men out of employment during the winter months in that parish?—We have not had a great many the last two or three years, but I think that the number is still in excess, because the quantity of work done by the labourer is certainly less than it used to be.

Are the labouring classes in that parish in a very distressed situation?—They are.

What wages does an able-bodied man earn?—At present 12s. a week.

Before the disturbances, how much?—About 10s.

Is it the habit of the overseers to make allowances to married men for their children?—Yes.

In point of fact they make up the price of wages out of the poor's rate?—There are allowances made to able men.

Have you ever thought of any plan of relieving the labouring classes of this country?—I have for some years thought a good deal about it.

Can you state to the Committee generally what you would recommend?—I should think that any plan to be effectual must be such as to alter the proportion between the number of labourers and the quantity of work to be done; as I apprehend the distress arises chiefly, if not exclusively, from a disproportion between the demand for labour and the supply.

Have you ever thought that emigration would relieve that difficulty?—It seems the only plan for removing the existing excess at the present moment, I think.

Do you believe that the people in your part of the country would be willing to emigrate if there was any fund to pay their expenses and to facilitate their emigration?—I have no reason to doubt it. I was applied to, a short time ago, by a shoemaker in Chichester, who wished to emigrate, and who was only prevented by the difficulty of raising funds; and I have known other instances of the same kind.

Have you known many agricultural labourers anxious to emigrate?—I have not heard them speak upon the subject.

You have not asked them, probably?—No, I have not.

Did you ask the shoemaker?—No; he applied to me, thinking that I might assist him in raising the money.

Is it not notorious that in the county of Sussex there is an excess of population?—It is.

Are you not aware that in the neighbouring parishes there are a great number of men out of employment during the winter?—There are.

Have you not seen a great many go to the magistrates at Chichester asking for work?—It very often happens.

Is it not the practice in that part of Sussex to employ men in numbers upon the roads?—Very many.

Not that the roads require it, but because the overseers have no other means of employing the people?—Yes.

Are they not placed upon the roads at very low wages?—At low wages, certainly; but not so low, I believe, as in many other parts of the country.

Have you ever turned your attention to some colonization?—I have often thought on the subject.

Do you think that would be practicable, so as to remove the present evil?—I should think decidedly not.

Will you state your reasons for that opinion?—I find it difficult to understand precisely what land is to be considered as waste. As far as my observation has gone, by far the greater proportion of lands called waste are already occupied in the most profitable way of which their quality admits; namely, in furnishing manure to the land of a better quality in the immediate neighbourhood. For instance, in my own parish there are many hundred acres of down, which consists of a very thin soil on a chalk basis. The greater part of that down is occupied in the feeding of sheep, which are penned every night on the arable land; and even those parts which are not fit for the feeding of sheep, being overrun with bushes and gorse, are still applied to the production of manure, because the surface is picked up and burnt, and the ashes are found very serviceable for that purpose. In fact, the only cases that I have observed in which any considerable tracts of land are wholly unemployed are such as those on Dartmoor, or the mountains of Wales, or the north of England, which are of very great extent and extremely barren land, and not intermixed with any of better quality. I apprehend it would be quite impossible to bring such land as that into cultivation with profit. The labourer and the horses employed upon it would consume a greater quantity of corn than would be raised upon the land after bringing it into cultivation.

Then your reasoning is limited to the particular districts which are under your observation; those which you have described. You only mean to speak of those particular districts which you have just alluded to, not the waste lands in other parts of England?—I spoke of those I have seen in different parts of the kingdom.

John Barton,
Esq.

25 February,
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I apprehend that a very great part of the land called waste is actually made useful; it is employed in the best manner it admits of, in furnishing manure for the other lands.

Have you seen Stainmoor?—I have not.

Do not you think this waste land would have been brought into cultivation if the present price of agricultural produce would have remunerated for the money expended in bringing it into cultivation?—I do not see how it is possible to bring land into cultivation which would yield less corn on cultivation than would be consumed by the men and horses employed in cultivating it.

Have you seen large districts in the north of England?—I have seen most parts of the kingdom.

Have you observed any considerable quantity of land fit for the plough, which is not now under it?—None at all, or next to none.

The large districts in the north are very useful as sheepwalks?—Certainly.

Do you know anything of the parish of Singleton?—I do not know enough of that parish to speak to it.

Do you know anything of the parish of Harting?—I hear about it; it lies near me.

Are you aware there are numbers of men out of employment there all the year round?—A great many; it is more overburdened than any parish in our neighbourhood.

Do you know that there are 60 or 70?—I have heard that there are as many.

That parish is nearly out of cultivation, is it not?—I believe it is in the hands of Sir Harry Featherston; I do not think it is thrown out of cultivation.

Do you know the parish of North Marden?—I believe that the uncultivated state of that parish arose from accidental circumstances; it was in Chancery.

Are there many people out of employment there now?—I do not know. In illustration of what I just now said on the subject of bringing waste land under the plough, I may mention a particular case: there is a noble Lord possesses some land in the parish in which I live, who happens to be lord of the manor; he has just let a farm with a considerable sheepwalk attached to it, and as I am told, he gave permission to the tenant to break up the best part of this sheep walk if he pleases; but I believe, in the opinion of the farmer and the best judges in the neighbourhood, it would be attended with loss, and in fact he is not breaking it up.

Have you any poorhouse in your parish?—We have not.

Is it the practice for people to marry at an early age in your parish?—I think it is.

Do you think that is in consequence of farmers giving more to married men than they do to single?—Partly so, and partly, I think, from there being no inducement, under present circumstances, for the labourers to save or refrain from marriage; they have no hopes of raising themselves from the caste in which they were born.

Do you conceive that emigration would be a great advantage, not only to the labourers who go out, but those who remain at home?—A very great one.

Do you see anything wrong in lending a man money to go abroad to get good wages, whereas if he remains in England he gets hardly any at all?—I think it is the greatest kindness that can possibly be done to the labouring classes.

Do you know that Mr. Henty near Worthing, who has obtained a grant of land in Van Diemen's Land, has had 1,500 of the labourers in his neighbourhood offered to go out with him to Van Diemen's Land?—I did not know that fact.

Would they not rather get work here, than go to Van Diemen's Land?—If they could get as good wages here they would probably prefer to remain.

You say there are in your part of the country a great number of persons out of employment; how is the land cultivated, well or ill?—Tolerably well; not so well as in some of the best parts of Norfolk.

Is there as much labour employed upon that land as ought to be employed?—I apprehend quite so. I should say a greater number of labourers are employed on the land than would be employed if things were in a wholesome condition. I am persuaded two-thirds of the men, working with the spirit and animation of men working for their own profit, would be quite sufficient to do the whole business of the parish, except in the harvest month.

Then there is an over-population in your parish?—Decidedly so.

Do

Do you consider that to have arisen from the prevalence of early marriages?—I think the proportion of marriages relatively to the population has not increased for the last 70 years; nor are they earlier than they used to be.

To what then do you attribute the increase of population?—To a diminution of mortality.

You have said that you think emigration the best and only means of relieving the distresses of the poor; does not emigration take off the best and most useful hands, and leave the least useful at home?—I think it would be desirable to send young and capable men, and not the old and decrepit.

Would not the land in your neighbourhood be more productive if more men were employed upon it?—I think not.

Has it arrived at such perfection that it could not be made more productive by more labour?—Not with profit.

Have you ever known any benefit arise permanently, or for any length of time, in consequence of emigration?—The emigration from my own neighbourhood has been on so very small a scale that I cannot form a judgment of its effects in relieving the rest of the population.

You would not have recourse to emigration when there are other means at home?—I have no objection to emigration.

Do you think the commons are all so far cultivated that they could not be improved, the whole waste of Stainmoor and others, if labour was bestowed upon them?—As far as my observation extends, the waste lands, or those called waste, are already employed in a way that, upon the whole, is most calculated to increase the quantity of corn raised, by furnishing manure for the better lands in their neighbourhood.

Have you not seen in the inclosure of commons, and so on, that they have been rendered more productive; otherwise why are bills of inclosure passed?—I should conceive that many of these inclosures have proved unprofitable to the persons concerned in them.

If the price of agricultural produce could be raised, would not many more hands be employed with profit upon the lands?—I think not more.

Do not you think so many would be employed as nearly to absorb the whole population now out of employment?—I should think not.

Would it not cost a great deal of money to transport the labourers from the county of Sussex, and to locate them upon Stainmoor?—Undoubtedly.

Do you think that the Sussex labourers would like to live there without houses or cottages?—Undoubtedly not.

Do you not conceive it would be a matter of some time and expense to build them cottages there?—Undoubtedly.

Do you not believe that a man who is constantly employed becomes a much more moral character than those who have no employment?—Undoubtedly he does.

Do you not believe that if you facilitated the emigration from England you would make more demand for labour, and that therefore the labourer would be more moral?—I do, indeed.

Do you know how much it would cost to pay the passage of persons to Canada, for instance?—I cannot answer that from my own knowledge. I have heard it would cost about 7*l.* a head.

Are you at all acquainted with the district of Stainmoor, of which you have been speaking?—No. I believe the question was put generally as to waste lands, not as to Stainmoor specially.

Are you at all acquainted with the wastes in the north of England?—Very little.

If there are any parts you are acquainted with, can you inform the Committee whether the cultivation of corn has not been carried as high up upon those wastes as can be with profit to the farmer?—I think so, certainly.

And all above that is employed either in pasture or inclosure, for the purpose of keeping the sheep and cattle during the winter?—I conceive so.

Is there any land attached to the cottages in your neighbourhood?—Nothing more than gardens.

How large are those gardens?—Perhaps from 10 to 20 roods; not exceeding that.

Do you think that increasing the quantity of land attached to cottages, would take off any of that superfluous labour?—Not at all.

John Barton,
Esq.

25 February,
1831.

Do you plough with two horses or four?—Generally with two.

Is it the practice of your parish officers to bind over any of the children as apprentices?—I believe not in our parish.

Have any means been taken in your parish to employ labourers by spade cultivation?—There have not been any attempts of that kind.

Have the parish rented any quantity of land under the provisions of an Act of Parliament passed in the 59th of George the Third?—No.

How many men are employed on a farm of 100 acres?—About four men and boys, I should think.

Do you refer to arable land?—Yes; four men to 100 acres of arable; but then our acre is smaller than the statute acre. Perhaps five hands to 100 statute acres of arable.

Is that number employed in your parish?—It is difficult to give an exact statement of the number, it varies so much.

Do you conceive that five men upon 100 acres of arable land can be profitably employed?—It depends upon the way in which they work.

Are five men necessary to the complete cultivation of 100 acres in your neighbourhood?—I should think three men would do the work, if they worked with that degree of skill and animation with which men are accustomed to work for themselves.

In point of fact, what number is generally employed in your parish?—The circumstances of different farms vary so much, that I am quite unable to give a general answer to that question. Some farms have more down than others, some have no down at all. That down is not included in my estimate.

In those farms in which there is no down at all, how many men are employed on 100 acres?—I am not able to answer that question.

Do you occupy any land yourself?—Not any arable land.

Are you acquainted with the manner in which any land in your parish is cultivated?—Yes, I have some land that I let.

How many men per 100 acres are employed upon that land?—I am unable to give a correct answer at this moment. I could easily ascertain the number, if desired.

Is there any agreement amongst the farmers in your parish to employ the whole population?—There is a tacit understanding to employ the whole; no formal agreement.

You have no labourers now upon the roads?—We have a few.

How many labourers have there been upon the roads during the last twelve months?—Eight or ten perhaps.

What is the tacit understanding to which you allude with regard to employment?—There is an understanding among the farmers that each should employ a certain proportion, not exactly a fixed and limited proportion; but it would be considered an unhandsome thing if one farmer employed less than another, according to the extent of his farm.

You have no condition in the parish that the whole of the labourers should be divided among the different farmers?—Certainly not.

Do you conceive that the superfluous labour amounts to eight or ten men? I conceive it amounts to a great deal more than that.

Then how do you account for there not being more than eight or ten men employed upon the roads?—I apprehend that when there is an excess of population, the result is, not so much that a certain number of men are thrown completely out of employ, but that the whole are partially employed, and do less work.

You suppose a great portion of the population are partially employed in your parish?—When I say partially employed, I mean that they do not perform the quantity of work the same men ought to do, and would do, under other circumstances.

Is there any employment for the women or children in your parish?—Scarcely any, except occasionally a little weeding; and in harvest they go out and do a little sometimes.

Are the men employed at all in task work?—Yes, frequently.

What sort of work is that; wood work or thrashing?—There are both kinds of work done in our parish; both thrashing and cutting wood.

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*John Barton,
Esq.*

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What are the earnings of the labourer employed at task work?—They are various; but I think generally higher than the average wages of day labour. They earn more at task work than at day work.

How much more?—That I am unable to state correctly.

Do they earn 14s. or 15s. a week?—There may be some few such instances.

Do they pay for their tools sometimes out of their greater earnings?—I believe they do.

Is there any limit put to the quantity of work those people employed by task may do in a day?—None at all, I believe.

Are those individuals employed at task work fully employed?—They undoubtedly work more diligently than those paid by the day.

What would be the advantage to those individuals if the population of the parish was diminished by emigration?—They might earn higher wages.

By doing a greater quantity of work, or by the wages of labour being higher?—By the wages of labour being higher.

Do those men who are provided with task work get constant task work all the year round?—Certainly not.

For what periods of the year are they idle?—I do not apprehend it occurs during any one period of the year, because it depends upon the particular work they perform; some are employed on wood work, and others on thrashing.

What are the wages of the men in harvest in your parish?—About double the ordinary wages at other times; the wages were last year from 3s. to 3s. 6d.

Are there any men out of employ during harvest?—Not many able-bodied labourers. I have known instances of old men, and those who were not very capable, being out of work during harvest.

Do any Irishmen or Welshmen, or persons from distant counties, come to work in the neighbourhood?—Not in our parish; they would meet with no employment.

If there were a smaller number of labourers in the parish, could you, without assistance from persons residing out of it, get in the harvest as profitably to the farmer as you do at present?—Not without the assistance of strangers.

No greater exertion on the part of the labourers could get in the harvest?—During the harvest month the labourers work very industriously and well, and I should think they could not easily do more.

What is the usual rent of cottages in your parish?—From 1s. to 1s. 6d. a week.

Are the cottages in the hands of the farmers or proprietors?—Mostly in the hands of the farmers.

Do the farmers pay for those cottages the same sum which they charge to the labourer?—The cottages are generally included with the farm.

Have any reductions of the rent of cottages taken place in your parish?—I believe not.

Are the farmers in a very bad condition?—No, I think not.

Yours is a down parish?—Yes.

The price of wool is better this year than it has been for some years?—Considerably so.

Has the improvement which has taken place this year induced the farmer to employ more labourers?—I have not observed any increase in the quantity of labour employed.

Have you ever turned your attention to the possibility of employing the men out of employment in the parish by spade cultivation in the parish itself?—It would be impossible to do so in our parish, on account of the thinness of the soil. If we were to attempt to use the spade, we should ruin the land.

You state that there is a tacit understanding among the occupiers in the parish to employ all the labourers; are those labourers at this moment beneficially employed?—I did not mean to say there was a tacit understanding to employ the whole of them, for there are some upon the roads; all I meant to say was, that there is a sort of honourable understanding amongst the farmers that each shall keep, as nearly as may be, their proportion of labourers.

Are the farmers employing more labourers than they want to employ; were it not that they would have to pay for them if they do not employ them?—Undoubtedly.

John Barton,
Esq.

25 February,
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Then they are not beneficially employed upon the farm?—I do not know whether I correctly understand the meaning of the question. As long as the labourers continue to work with that sort of indolence which prevails under present circumstances, it might not be possible for the farmer to do with less; but if the labourers were to exert themselves as they do when working for their own profit, a farmer might be able to do with two-thirds of those he now employs.

Would the effect of being able to do with two-thirds the number they have at present be more beneficial to the farmer than employing the full number they do at the present wages?—I think it would be more beneficial to the farmer, for the rates would be reduced, though he would pay higher wages.

Are allowances regularly made in your parish on account of the number of the family?—Yes.

Is that by any order of the magistrate?—I think not.

It is the voluntary act of the overseers?—It is the voluntary act of the overseers.

Is there any regular scale of allowance?—No; I can hardly say a regular scale. It is customary to give about 1 s. 6 d. a head for all children above two, in addition to their wages.

Do you not believe, that if a labourer goes to the magistrates at Chichester, and asks for an order to the overseer to give him relief, they are in the habit of inquiring how much the man earns, and then making the order according to his earnings, at so much a head per week?—Yes.

Do you know how much the magistrates grant to the labourer per head a week for himself and his family?—No, I cannot say.

Have the rents of land been lowered in your parish?—The rents of land are lower than they were during the war.

How much?—I cannot speak to that.

How much per cent. has your own been lowered?—I have had it but five years.

Do you know how much the rent has been lowered since 1814?—I do not; I have only a general impression that they have been lowered; it is a thing the farmers do not like to talk about.

Do you mean to say that the rents of land have been lowered, but that the farmers have made no corresponding reduction in the rents of the cottages?—I cannot say, indeed. I have been but five years in the parish.

You do not know much, of your own knowledge, on the subject, beyond that which you collect from talking with persons in the parish?—I do not, on the subject of reduction of rent.

With respect to the rent of the cottages?—I can speak to them only during the last four or five years.

Whether they have been lowered within the last 15 years you cannot say?—I cannot.

Are the farmers in a thriving condition in the parish?—I think they are paying their way, perhaps; they are scarcely laying by.

Are they keeping their own?—I think they are.

Have they been so for the two or three years preceding the present?—I should think they have.

During the last two bad years, with the poor's rate of 8 s. in the pound?—I should think during the time I have been in Stoughton the farmers have, upon the whole, not been losing.

Do you know what the poor's rates were before that time?—I am unable to speak positively, but I could easily get the information.

Would not any plan which enabled a poor man and his family to employ their leisure hours profitably, be a benefit to the public and to themselves?—I apprehend that, after a man has been working eight hours for his master, he has very little strength left to work for himself.

Do you not see the contrary in many instances?—There may be exceptions in some instances.

Then would not allotting a large garden to a family come under that description?—I should think it a very desirable thing for every labourer to have a large garden.

Would it not, in proportion to the profits they thereby receive, become less necessary that the poor should be obliged to emigrate?—In my own district they have already most of them good gardens.

They

They have a garden large enough to grow the vegetables and the potatoes for the consumption of their families?—Most of them.

You acknowledge that great benefit does arise from that?—Yes.

Your plan of emigration would never be to oblige persons to emigrate?—Certainly not; that would be transporting them.

You would not wish to send persons abroad, but only to facilitate their going if they wished to go?—Yes.

With all the benefits of these gardens, where they grow potatoes and vegetables sufficient for their consumption, still they have not income enough to prevent their being in a most distressed situation?—Certainly not.

Do you not think that the labourers in the Weald of Sussex, with which you are acquainted, are in a situation which is very distressing?—Certainly.

Are you not aware that there are many hundreds of men out of employ during the winter?—Yes, throughout the district.

Are you not aware that they go to the magistrate and only ask for work?—Certainly.

And that the magistrates, having no work to give them, are obliged to send them to the overseers for relief?—Certainly.

Do you think it would be expedient to pass an Act of Parliament to force any landholder to let his land to the poor for gardens?—No, very much the contrary.

Is the price of fuel dear in your parish?—Yes, it is.

It is chiefly wood, probably?—They burn occasionally coal; they think coal is rather cheaper than wood.

Do you know at all the price of coal in the parish?—It costs about 8s. per chaldron carriage; and of course the price at the water side is the same as on other parts of the coast.

What is that price?—This year it has been 34s. a chaldron.

Has this season suited your lands?—Wet seasons are not so injurious to our district as to many others.

Do you conceive that during the war there was much employment given to the people in your neighbourhood beyond the mere agricultural pursuits at those times; that, being so near the French coast as Sussex is, there were any public works or military preparations?—Not in our parish, I should think, nor in our immediate neighbourhood.

Are you aware that some disturbances took place in the west of Sussex?—Yes.

Do you know the ground the labourers who joined in those disturbances gave for their tumultuous assemblages?—They alleged the lowness of wages, and the impossibility of maintaining their families.

The disturbances were very soon put a stop to?—They were very soon put an end to in Sussex.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday next, Twelve o'clock.

Die Lunæ, 28^o Februarii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Order of Adjournment read.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'clock.

John Barton,
Esq.

25 February,
1831.

28 February,
1831.

Die Martis, 1^o Martii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. Edmund Danson is called in; and Examined, as follows:

Rev.
Edmund Danson.

1 March,
1831.

YOU are a clergyman in the parish of Alford, in Lincolnshire?—I am.
In what part of Lincolnshire?—A part of Lindsey in the hundred of Calce-
worth, on the eastern side of the county.

Have you been many years resident in that parish?—About twenty.

Have you turned your attention to the administration of the Poor Laws during that period?—As much as I could; I have never been absent from a single vestry for the twenty years, when I could attend, whether public or select.

What are the poor rates in your parish?—They have varied in different years; at present about 8s. in the pound.

Is that on the rack-rent?—No; I cannot exactly say the proportion; but it is not more than two-thirds of the real value.

What were the poor rates when you first came to that parish?—I cannot exactly recollect. I came to reside there in the year 1810. I think they were rather higher at that period; they were at that time as high or higher than they are now; but if I had known I should be asked that question, I would have been prepared.

Are there any antecedent periods at which you can state the rates in your parish?—They are now about 8s. in the pound, and they have been as much as 9s., and I have been told as much as 11s. in the pound.

Can you state the number of acres in your parish?—I have asked the church-warden and assistant overseer to take an account of the acres, and they stated them to be 1,050.

Can you state what was the population in the year 1821?—If I recollect rightly, 1,169 in 1811, and in 1821 it was 1,506. I took the population myself at both those periods.

Has that population continued to increase since that time?—I cannot exactly say whether it has or not; I think it has been perhaps nearly stationary.

Is there any manufactory carried on in the parish?—Candle-making is carried on; that is all, except tailors and shoemakers.

There is no regular manufacture, like cotton-mills?—No.

Is it an agricultural parish?—I consider it so.

What are the wages of labour in that parish?—They vary very much. I have frequently employed labourers, and have given them 1s. 6d. a day; last winter I gave them 2s.; and I have had some few the last winter that I paid 2s. 6d.

The wages of labour vary from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a day?—Sometimes considerably under that. When I gave them 2s., some others, I believe, were giving only 1s. 6d.

Is there any allowance made to the poor people from the rates, in addition to their wages?—In this way: our assistant overseer has given them work by the piece, which very likely will not pay the labourers the full amount of what he will pay them; he allows them 2s. a day, and they perhaps will not earn more than 1s. 8d.

Do the labourers employed by the farmers receive any payment in addition to their wages from the parish rates?—I am not aware of anything of the kind at the present time, further than indirectly in the way I have stated. When the assistant overseer takes a piece of work, he takes it at something less than it really ought to be, and he employs the labourers at so much a day, giving them the proper wages if they earn more than 2s. a day, which is the price of labour; they would have the benefit of what they earned more, and if they earn less, the parish takes the loss.

That extends only to labourers who are out of employment, and wholly dependent upon parish employment?—It applies exclusively to those who want either relief in money or employment.

Do those who want money or employment receive any addition to their wages out of the parish rates?—We have nothing of that kind.

Is it the custom to make up the wages of labour out of the poor's rate, to enable the labourer to subsist his family?—I am not aware of any assistance given to them when they are able-bodied labourers in full employment.

If a man had twelve children, would the parish allow him anything to assist in maintaining those children?—To answer that question, and explain to the Committee the view we take of that, we allow it in an indirect way. When a man has more children than he can maintain by his labour, we put them out to cottagers or small farmers, and he has the full benefit of his wages afterwards. Sometimes we put them out at 1*s.* a week, and sometimes at 2*s.* a week. We have two or three meetings to invite the cottagers or small farmers to come and offer to take them; we assemble them in a room, and select the best places we can for them, and allow sometimes as high as 2*s.* a week, sometimes 1*s.* 6*d.*, or whatever we can agree to. The people who take them agree in some instances to clothe them, and in other instances the parish agree to clothe them. Then the labourer, whatever he can earn, has the benefit of that for his own family after we have put his children out, if he has a large family, more than he can maintain; but we do not do it in the way of giving them money from the rates.

You do not give flour or anything of that kind?—No.

Is there any distinction made between the wages of the married and the single labourer, or is he paid in proportion to the value of his work?—There is some distinction made in respect of families, when they are employed by the parish; not, that I am aware of, when they are employed by other persons. When they want employment, and the parish takes a man into employment upon the road, they take into account what his wife can earn, and what the rest can earn, and he has as much as will make up 9*s.* or 10*s.* a week, or if he has a large family, 12*s.* a week.

Have you a regular scale of allowance in proportion to the number of the family?—In order that I might not make a mistake, I asked the assistant overseer, particularly, the distinction. His calculation is to let those who have small families have about 9*s.* a week; if he finds that they earn 4*s.* or 5*s.* in another way he allows them only so much as, with what they earn elsewhere, will make up somewhere about 9*s.* or 12*s.* per week; he allows them therefore, in some instances, only 4*s.* or 5*s.* a week when working on the roads.

Whatever the quantity of work they do?—They are in those cases generally employed upon the road.

A man with a large family, then, is just as well off as a man with a small one?—He has 12*s.* a week; and a man with a small one not more than 9*s.*, or less.

Have you many persons out of work in that parish?—We have several employed by the parish now.

How many?—I cannot exactly say; I have seen three or four.

How many have been employed by the parish during any period of the winter? There may have been as many as six or seven; I speak rather by conjecture than certainty; more than there are now.

What are the rents paid by them for cottages in your parish?—They vary very much according to the quality or situation of the house; we take a number of houses for the use of the poor on account of the parish.

Are the Committee to understand that you provide the labourers with houses?—A certain number we provide with houses; we have taken some at the rate of about 3*s.* to 4*s.* each tenement, and others as high as 3*l.* 10*s.*

Do you give those houses to persons with large families, or in what manner do you decide upon the individuals for whom you are thus to provide?—We let those have houses rent-free that we suppose are unable altogether to pay their rents; that is the criterion we go upon: if we think there is a probability of their being able to pay their rents, we refuse the houses.

Do you mean by their not having the ability to pay their rents, that they are impotent poor, who want relief, or that they are able-bodied poor who do not earn sufficient money to support themselves and to pay their rents?—They are either impotent poor, or poor who have such large families that their earnings, though good, are not sufficient to maintain them and to pay their rents and rates.

To whom do the cottages in your parish belong principally?—To a variety of proprietors; there is no particular proprietor; we take them where we have an opportunity. The parish is divided into a great number of freeholds.

What class of persons?—The lord of the manor, and a lady who has a considerable property in the parish, and small proprietors who have houses.

Rev.
Edward Denham.

1 March,
1831.

Do you mean carpenters and others who have built those cottages on speculation?—No; there are very few which have been built on speculation; they have been built some time ago for the profit to be obtained by letting them.

Are there any gardens attached to the cottages?—No; in very few instances; I scarcely recollect any gardens attached of any value.

Have the labourers any means of hiring land for the purpose of cultivation?—No, except under great disadvantages.

Has any system been adopted in your parish of enabling them to hire allotments of land?—About twelve months ago we took five acres of land in a place called the Little West Field, close to the town, excellent land, at the rate of 40s. an acre; we have divided that among such of the poor as have large families and are most likely to need assistance, and who did need assistance, either directly or indirectly. The largest quantity we allowed of that small field was a rood, and in some instances they had about half a rood, or a little more. The field did not divide exactly into roods and half roods.

Have you many of those individuals who pay rent for their land?—We charge them 10s. a rood, and they pay tithes, and nothing more in the way of payment; the rates of every description are paid by the parish, and allowed to them.

What are the tithes?—I cannot exactly say; but when I put that before a meeting of farmers and others who were assembled, they said they thought 8s. an acre perhaps about a fair equivalent for that land; about 2s. a rood.

Have you found that any material improvement has been effected in the condition of those labourers by the possession of those allotments of land?—There is nothing that ever we have done that has been so beneficial and so satisfactory to the poor as letting them have this land.

Have you found that your rates this year have been lower in consequence?—It has very recently come into operation; the first crop they had cause in in the autumn; it has bettered their condition since they got it. The rates are in fact, I consider, virtually reduced in consequence of it; but there was an expense of 30*l.* or more, in fencing and preparing the five acres for the occupation of the labourers; and this last year we have sent about 20 or 21 individuals to America, which has cost us from 130*l.* to 140*l.*; and we have taken another field of ten acres and a half, upon which, before the termination of the present year, we shall expend in under-draining and fencing, and putting down gates, I think from 30*l.* to 40*l.* more; and after all the assistant overseer supposes we shall not pay more than 6*d.* or 1*s.* in the pound additional in consequence of this; and if we had had none of these expenses our rates would have been actually less than they were, and the poor in a better condition than they have been since I have been in that parish. The rates this year may be a little higher in consequence of those extra expenses.

Have you prescribed any mode of cultivation to the persons to whom you have made those small allotments?—We have a number of rules and regulations for the management of the land.

Have you got a copy of those rules with you?—I have not, but I can state the substance of the rules; they are to manage the land in a proper manner, and have it properly manured.

State what you consider to be a proper manner?—In regard to digging and manuring; we do not limit them to any particular crop.

What quantity of manure do you prescribe to be put on?—Sufficient; the exact quantity is not fixed.

In what manner have they cultivated the land this year?—With spade husbandry.

What crops have they put on?—Principally potatoes.

What has been the produce?—From 1,200 to 1,600 pecks per acre.

Is the land capable of continuing to bear those crops?—I think, with proper management, winter digging, and proper manuring, it will do.

What is the price of potatoes in your neighbourhood?—They vary from 6*d.* to 4*d.* a peck.

Had that land been in cultivation before?—Yes.

In what cultivation?—Some part of it, I imagine, had been planted with potatoes, I have seen it with barley upon it; it has always been in cultivation; it has never been otherwise since I recollect.

You have stated that you have sent 20 or 21 persons to America this year; of what class of persons were they?—There were two families of agricultural labourers; another was a carpenter or wheelwright; there were three families.

There

There were only three men sent?—And their wives and families; the number of their families altogether amounted to 21.

Were those persons willing to go, or was any persuasion used?—They were very desirous to go.

Did they go to the United States or to the British colonies?—They went to New York.

In your opinion are the labourers now remaining in the parish more than sufficient to carry on the cultivation of the soil?—Very little. If they cultivate the soil and manage it as it ought to be, I think that the parish and the neighbourhood could find employment for the number we have of industrious able-bodied labourers; adding to it the employment which they would have of land allotments, which they are likely to have in addition to those they already have, I think there would be very little surplus population.

Can you state the several items of charge of emigration of the individuals sent to America?—I cannot.

From what port did they sail?—From Hull.

How far is that from you?—About 50 miles.

Did you give them any money to start in the world, or did they go dependent on their own exertions?—They went principally dependent upon themselves.

Have any reports been received from them?—Yes; we had a very full and very satisfactory statement from them, dated from a place called Utica.

Do they state what their wages are in that country?—One who went with the same party was a printer, and I understand he gets 2*l.* a week as printer. The wages of the others are principally paid in kind, and that the pay is a tenth part of the quantity of the produce that they thrash out. One, a labourer who is employed in thrashing corn, has a tenth part of that he thrashes out as his wages. They all express themselves very well satisfied with the change which has taken place.

Had those persons any resources of their own at starting?—They had very little. One man who went had a family of six children, and his wife's father gave him 10*l.* to be paid to him when he landed in America. Some others might, by one means or other have a few pounds; but this was the largest sum, I think, that any of them had.

Were they men of good or bad character?—Two of them we considered very bad ones.

Are there any more persons in your parish anxious to emigrate?—One man who has a large family was anxious to emigrate a little while ago, but his wife will not agree to it; there is a stout young man who is not a very good labourer, and we think of his going next year, it being his wish; and if he perseveres in expressing that wish (having a wife and only one child) we think it will be as well to send them, because if his family increases he will not be able to maintain them here.

Do you find that the good labourers are anxious to go?—I do not recollect one that I could say was a real good labourer who has expressed a wish to go.

You were once clergyman of a parish in Northumberland, were you not?—I was clergyman of the parish of Ellingham in Northumberland.

Did you attend much to the administration of the poor laws at that time?—There was very very little to do; I recollect attending a meeting at Easter on something of that kind, but I heard very little conversation on the subject of the poor at that time.

Had you any opportunity of observing the difference between the condition of the poor in Northumberland and in Lincolnshire?—I consider the condition of the poor in Northumberland to be much more satisfactory than I find it in Lincolnshire generally.

Is fuel cheaper in Northumberland than in the part of Lincolnshire in which you reside?—Much cheaper. I can mention one particular circumstance, which will put the Committee into possession of a distinct case: when I had the curacy of Ellingham, the glebe farm was let to a tenant on condition that he should lend me all the coals I might want in the vicarage house, and I was to pay for the coals; there was a coal-pit; it was not a mountainous country, but a country having an inclined plane; and on the top, or nearly so, of that inclined plane, there were several pits at the distance of two or three miles; they never measured by the strike or bushel, but took a cart and two horses; and he had as many coals as a cart and two horses could bring, for 2*s.* 6*d.*

Rev.
Edmund Denison.

1 March,
1831.

What is the price of fuel in the parish where you now reside?—We have the Sunderland coal principally: the price at the sea where it is landed is 1*l.* 8*s.* a chaldron, and the carriage is 5*s.* a chaldron to my house, and if they go a little further the lading is 6*s.* a chaldron.

Do the poor people burn coal principally?—They burn coal and sticks.

They have no peat?—No, they have not.

Are there any other circumstances to which you attribute the superior condition of the Northumberland labourers over that of the Lincolnshire?—It was customary in that parish to employ all the children. I did not feel that interest, and certainly, at that time, did not take that notice of the condition of the poor which I have done of late years; but living amongst the principal farmers, and having certain circumstances almost ceased upon my attention, I cannot but remember some few of them; and I recollect one principal farmer observing, that as soon as the children were able to go out and earn a penny, they had that penny, and they kept them working upon the farms; when they were worth two-pence they had that; and there were none, as far as I can recollect, but what could earn something as soon as they were capable of going out; and the large farmers used to have bailiffs who attended to the labourers. The best work done by the men in Lincolnshire, that is, hoeing turnips, was done by the women and children in Northumberland. There was one thing which had a good effect, as I conceive, and which cost very little money; they used to have a collection on the Sundays; not every Sunday, perhaps, if it was Sacrament-day, or the sidesman was absent; but they had a collection generally for the benefit of the poor; this collection was distributed by the clergyman among those who had no parish relief, and, to the best of my recollection, generally to those poor who attended the church; and this had a very excellent effect in exciting a spirit of independence; they thought it an honour to receive that, when it would have been a degradation to them to come to the parish for relief. What sum remained (I wished to have a pretty good sum remaining at Christmas) was then distributed in proportion to the families (called together in church) and their wants. I conceived the benefit resulting very far beyond the amount of the money distributed.

What was the amount of the Sunday collections in Northumberland?—They were not large. It is now about six or seven and twenty years ago. I recollect that most of the farmers gave a trifle every Sunday.

In your opinion, are the poor of your parish more distressed now than they were when you first came to reside amongst them?—They are not at the present moment. I think, from adopting a different system, that their condition is as good, or better, than I recollect it before, by providing them employment and allotting them land. I think that they are better off just now than when I first came.

Has any inclosure taken place in your parish?—There is a great want of inclosure; there are two open arable fields which are uninclosed.

Has any considerable quantity of waste been brought into cultivation since you have resided in the parish?—I do not recollect any, unless it is a strip by the side of the road.

In that part of Northumberland in which you resided, were wages paid in kind or paid in money?—I recollect nothing but money myself; I have employed labourers myself, and I have paid them in money. So far as I recollect at this distance of time (I may not be exactly correct), they used to have what they called bondagers, a description of confined labourers; they used to have a certain quantity of corn or potatoes, or a cow, or something or other which was considered as part of wages; but the day labourers, so far as I know, received money.

Have the farms in your parish been increased in size?—I should suppose there has been a great diminution of cottages and small farms. I recollect only one or two that have been demolished since I came into it; one small farm has been laid to another which was a larger farm. There have been a considerable number that have, within the last 60 years, been demolished; as many as 11, according to the report of the assistant overseer.

Do you attribute the depressed condition of the labourers very much to the practice of laying small farms into large?—The great cause of the distress I consider to be attributable to the demolition of cottages and the accumulation of farms.

At

At what time are servants hired in your parish?—They used to be hired before May-day or at May-day, at the statute; at present there is no hiring of men servants until after May-day: this does not affect the women so much as the men. The chief constable stated to me, that it was of no use having a statute at all for the hiring men servants before May-day.

The men find considerable difficulty in getting service, from the fear of burdening the parishes with settlement?—Yes: many of the parishes make it a rule not to hire till after May-day, that so they may not serve a year.

Do you conceive that practice to be injurious to the labourers, in respect of morals and of pecuniary benefits?—It is my opinion that it is very injurious both to morals and the benefit, in every respect, of labourers, to be kept at the end of the year travelling from one statute to another, seeking places, sometimes having no home of their own to go to, expending their money: it is attended with much loss to the labourers, and leads to a state of demoralization among them.

Is it not the usage in many parts of Lincolnshire to rent land with the cottages?—There are some cottages now which have land; but the system has been to decrease cottages, not to increase them.

Has it been the general practice in Lincolnshire to let land to cottagers?—Not in the part with which I am acquainted.

How is that circumstance with respect to the cottagers in Northumberland?—I cannot exactly say how it was; I do not recollect whether they had or had not land; but I did not attend them so much to the subject as I do now. The only thing that I recollect with regard to labourers having land was, that the squire of the parish let them have 10 or 12 acres, on which a certain number of labourers had a cow each depastured during the summer; and there was another close from which they obtained hay to winter the cow: they had this, I understood, at a very moderate rate, and it was of great use to them. It was not a populous parish.

Did that supply a considerable proportion of the labourers in that parish?—I cannot say.

What is the habit in Lincolnshire with respect to employing the labourers as domestic servants?—They have them both ways; but the number of domestic servants has perhaps decreased.

What is your opinion as to that alteration, whether it is conducive to the comfort and the orderly conduct of labourers?—I think if the domestic servants were increased it would be an advantage.

Do you think they would be likely to continue unmarried longer?—I think they would.

Are you a magistrate?—I am not.

Does it occur to you that there could be any alteration made in the law of settlement which would be beneficial to the labourers?—I think it would be a considerable advantage to labourers if the law of settlement could be extended from 10*l.* to a larger sum; that would enable a cottager to have a sufficient quantity of land, without enabling him to gain a settlement; it would tend to increase the building of cottages for the labourers. Suppose a labourer has a cottage and six acres of land, and he happens to be in distress (or any of his family to become chargeable before he has obtained a settlement in his own right), there is a dispute whether he belongs to that parish or to the one from which he came. If the amount were sufficiently increased, the owner of landed property would not have the same fear of the extension of the number of such cottages.

What is your opinion with respect to the law of settlement as it applies to the gaining a settlement by service, whether the period should be extended?—I think that some alteration, under existing circumstances, is absolutely necessary; either to have a shorter period, or to have no settlement at all by hiring and service.

Do you make that observation on account of the litigation which takes place?—Yes, and on account of the system of the farmers to omit hiring till after May-day. The men ramble about the country; they cannot get employment as labourers, and they are therefore completely in a disorganized state till they do meet with places.

Do you think it would be desirable to make it easier for them to gain settlements by hiring and service, or to make it more difficult for them?—I think, perhaps, it would be best to shorten it; to make it six months, or put it in some form that would enable them to gain a settlement with less difficulty. I have not turned that over in my mind so as to come to a very conclusive opinion, but I hear the farmers who are not interested in the matter say, that a month or two

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months should gain a settlement, and that then they would not hesitate hiring them; but I am not competent, without further consideration, to give an opinion upon this question.

Have you turned your attention at all to the effects of the Bastardy Laws?—Yes; we have had a great deal of expense attending them. It is one of our standing rules, if a person leaves his family chargeable on the parish, or another person does not obey the laws of bastardy, to regard no expense; we will have them if we follow them from one end of the kingdom to another. It is with great difficulty I have persuaded the parish to come into that, as the most economical system. We advertise them, and take every means to have them brought forward. We formerly had very great inconvenience this way, but we have now hardly any refractory subjects. Many parishes will not go to the expense. There is no allowance made to the parish for any expenses which may be incurred in going to demand the payment of arrears; and the practice is, for the demand to be made personally by the overseer or assistant overseer, and till a warrant is issued no expenses are allowed; therefore it frequently happens that a great deal of expense is incurred before anything can be returned to the parish; and in some cases, when the parish has made a demand, the party may go into another part of the kingdom, so that they cannot take him at all. Many parishes which have not the same resolution (and that is a common case) suffer a very heavy incumbrance in consequence of the defective state of the law of bastardy. The rule, I conceive, ought to be, that an order of quarter sessions, should be considered as a perpetual demand, without the necessity of a renewal.

Are you not of opinion, that in consequence of the measures to which you have just alluded, marriages take place which otherwise would not?—In consequence of following up and punishing the putative father, we have had very few cases, that I recollect, where they did marry decidedly against their inclinations.

Does it not tend to promote marriage?—I do not know that it does; I cannot say that it does; I have known few cases of their marrying on that account.

Do you conceive that the means of the farmers generally have diminished in your neighbourhood?—The rot in sheep has affected them lately; that has reduced their property, and the value of property has in many instances been very much reduced since the pence. I think their property is not so good now as it was.

Is draining carried on to any great extent?—They are doing a great deal this winter.

Are you near the fen country?—No; the part of the country I live in is called the Middle Marsh. One of my parishioners had 200 sheep that went in a field that wants inclosing, and they were destroyed by the rot. The only thing which prevents its inclosure is the serious expense of the hill. I think every sheep which has gone in those fields during the last summer has been attacked by rot. One person has lost every sheep he had, and this entirely from the want, I conceive, of a proper drainage, &c. I keep a few sheep myself; I have carefully under-drained, and my sheep have done very well.

You say that you have not a great many labourers out of employment in the winter time?—We have not this winter. Several circumstances have contributed to give employment to the labourers. An improved system is beginning to work with regard to land allotments. In order to provide labour we united the office of boon master or surveyor of the highways with that of assistant overseer; he was thus enabled to supply applicants for relief with work upon the roads, in breaking stones, &c.

Is that profitable work?—Yes; for he must otherwise hire labourers.

What are the Committee to understand by boon master?—It is another term for surveyor of the highways.

Have you any want of hands during the harvest?—I think there is no want.

Have any Irish labourers come to your parish?—Yes, a considerable number have come, to the great injury of our labourers. I have spoken to some of our labourers who were well acquainted with the circumstances of the Irish attending to do the harvest work, and I desired them to speak nothing but the truth, and not to exaggerate; and I took down what they said to me in writing, and I have it with their names or marks affixed. Three of them stated, "that during the late harvest, and in some degree during several preceding harvests, they have found a great falling-off, both in price and employment, in consequence of the vast influx

influx of Irish labourers. James Goodwin stated, that though he diligently went in search of work for several days, he earned no more than 8s. The said J. D. and S. J. state, that they earned less money during the late harvest, per week, than either before or immediately after; that the said persons have seen eight or ten labourers earnestly applying for employment to farmers, and been refused, while as many or more Irishmen were employed in their presence. The said persons further state, that they formerly were enabled by the harvest to pay off debts contracted in the winter; this they can no longer do. The said persons also state, that mowing and tying cost 7s. per acre; shearing, 9s. per acre; mowing the stubble after shearing, from 2s. to 2s. 6d.; shearing, 11s.; mowing, 7s.; that half the labourers in this part were not half employed during last harvest; that such has been partly the case during the last three or four harvests; and that there are plenty of hands to get the harvest in without any assistance from abroad." The men assured me that this was strictly and perfectly true. The day after, February 26th, I had two labourers ditching for me; I asked them whether they knew any thing with respect to the Irish getting work; they said they did. I asked them with respect to the circumstances, and I took down their account, which is the following: "Alford, 26th February 1831. We, T. G. of Alford, and G. W. of Saleby, labourers, hereby certify, that the statement of J. G., S. J., and J. D. has been read to us; that our own experience enables us to bear witness to its truth; that we travelled during the last harvest, the former into the West Fen for five days, and that he only obtained three badly-paid days' work; that the latter went upon the Wolds for three days, and could obtain no work whatever; that we every where saw numbers of Irish labourers employed in the harvest fields; and great numbers of English labourers who were on the tramp in search of work, and who, like ourselves, could not obtain it." That which is referred to is the statement which I have just read to your Lordships. There is another statement of a tenant who occupies a rood of land, who was one of those who gave me this account with respect to the Irish. He sold his crop before it was ripe; I think he sold his rood for 3*l.* 10*s.*; it was considered an extremely bad price for it, and upon that account we made a standing rule, that no labourer should be allowed to dispose of his crop till it was fit for use; he said he would take care not to repeat it; that his crop was worth much more than he sold it for. I asked him how far his crop had paid this year, and he made this statement: "That he had about a rood and a half of land; that this land paid him full 5*s.* a day for every day that he worked upon it the last year; but it would have paid him more if he had not sold it so badly."

What would the rent of that land have been, under other circumstances, let to the farmer?—We charge them exactly the same the great farmer pays; we take it of the steward of a lady who has acted always very generously towards us; he lets us have it at the same rate as he lets it to the large farmers; he contrived to make the large farmer a sort of equivalent in some other way.

Do you know what quantity of wheat such land has produced, and is capable of producing?—I should think about four quarters.

Were the men who made the depositions as to Irish labour steady men?—One of them is one of the most practical and experienced labourers we have, and the others are as respectable labourers as the generality of labourers are; but from the general report and opinion of the country, I could not have drawn any other report than that which is stated in that paper.

Do you know at what wages the Irish labourers engage to work?—I do not; they beat down the wages.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

The Right honourable the Earl Stanhope, a Member of the Committee, is Examined as follows:

HAS your Lordship turned your attention to the subject of allotments of land to the poor?—I have; and can speak from practical experience upon the subject.

Have the goodness to state the results?—I have given allotments on various scales; and in Kent for the purposes of gardens, and in quantities sufficient for that object. I have, however, given in Kent, to a very industrious and excellent labourer, an acre of land at the rent of 12*l.*, and for the term of his life, which he cultivates partly as a garden and as an orchard, and partly in tillage; and I am informed that he raises upon that ground sufficient wheat for the consumption of his

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his own family during half the year: his family consists of a wife, a mother, and two or three children.

Is he employed solely upon that?—No; he is in my employment as a gardener. The other land I have given to the labourers in the parish which I inhabit, and in a neighbouring parish, has been land of a good quality; and, according to the principle which was lately stated by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, I have charged the same rent as might be fairly expected from a tenant, in order not to discourage the adoption of the system by others.

Can your Lordship state the produce of those allotments of land?—They are cultivated entirely as gardens, and the benefit which the labourers derive from them is that of providing vegetables for their families, and enabling them to fatten their pigs.

What extent of land does your Lordship consider as adequate for that purpose?—I cannot speak correctly from memory as to the precise extent of those allotments, but I believe them to be half a rood. In both parishes I pay for those allotments the tithes and poor's rates, which are therefore to be deducted from the rent that I receive. I have always been of opinion that such allotments are highly beneficial to the labourers; that they tend to improve their character and habits, to increase their comforts, and, when those allotments are of such an extent as to yield a surplus produce, to give them a direct interest in those remunerating prices which I hold to be essential to the welfare of the community. In Devonshire I have given allotments for the purpose of enabling labourers to keep cows, and those allotments may be taken upon the average to be about three acres and a half, which I understand is sufficient for the keep of one cow during the year, the land, which is very good grass land, being fed and mowed alternately. I am told that those allotments have been proved to be extremely beneficial to them; and I have found in all cases that those who hold small allotments pay their rents with more regularity than large farmers. I am not able to mention the precise rents, but they are the same as those at which the other parts of the estate are valued.

Has your Lordship found it necessary on those allotments to erect any buildings?—No buildings were required from me for those allotments. In the north-west of Devonshire I have given allotments of a much larger extent; and here I would observe, that, according to accounts in my possession, the wages of labour were in that district, in the year 1727, 6s. a week, and that they are at present, I believe, but 7s.; and that, according to the information of a very intelligent person who was my agent in that county, the wages continued at 6s. a week when he first came there, which might be about 50 years ago, but that the wife of a labourer earned as much by spinning, a source of occupation which has now totally ceased, as her husband did by his day labour. The labourers are in the habit of buying land from the farmer, which he mowes for them, and which they cultivate in potatoes, paying him a fixed price for the land so taken. Husbandry is in that part of the country very ill understood, and in consequence of that circumstance there are considerable tracts of land of very little value. The farmers seem to hold more land than they are able well to manage; and many years ago I adopted a system of given allotments of land in the north-west of Devon to such an extent as was intended to render the labourer independent of any other occupation than his cultivation. In some cases, when he had no cottage near the allotment, he received a separate grant of land for the purpose of building a cottage, which is constructed in that country of mud, with a thatched roof, and for that portion of it, being about half a rood, he received a lease of forty years. The allotment of land was let to him for a term of fifteen years, and during the first five years of that term at a rent below its actual value, it being necessary to subdivide that land, and the mounds and banks requisite for that purpose being in that district seven or eight feet in height, and very laborious in their formation. During the next five years it was let to him at its actual value; and during the last five years at a higher rent, so as to average the actual value during the whole period. I have not found the result of that system to be perfectly satisfactory, and I attribute that to an error, not in the system itself, but in its execution. The land upon which such allotments are granted being on an average worth about 5s. an acre, the rent during the first period was 2s. 6d., and therefore a great temptation was given to occupy the land during that period, in order to exhaust it as much as possible, and to relinquish it when it ceased to be productive. No sufficient provisions were made in the lease for the cultivation of the land, which in that district is in many instances

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instances exhausted by a succession of corn crops. I have given those allotments to the extent of 15 acres, if not more. One of the persons to whom such an allotment was given complained to me that in consequence he had received no parochial relief; and I told him that one of the objects was to render him independent of such aid. Another, who held an allotment of 13 acres, required a further quantity; and upon my telling him that I thought that quantity was as large as he could well manage, he said that unless I gave him more he could not possibly afford to pay rent and taxes. I conceive, however, that this system would have succeeded much better if the errors which I have just mentioned had been avoided, and if husbandry had been in that district better understood. With reference to that part of the country, I would observe that, in the autumn of the year 1818, being in that neighbourhood, I attended a vestry; I addressed those who were present at some length upon the necessity of giving better wages to the labourers, and strongly urged them to advance their wages from 7s. to 9s., representing to them, among other reasons, that a labourer supported with his family on 7s. a week could not be able to do as much work as if his situation were made more comfortable. I succeeded in obtaining the adoption of resolutions for that purpose, and in inducing those who were present to sign them; but as soon as I had left the neighbourhood I was informed that another vestry was held, and that those resolutions were rescinded.

Is it not the practice in Devonshire to give a man liquor in addition to his wages?—I cannot speak positively upon that point. I believe, during harvest, cider is given, but not, as far as I know, at other times.

Is it not the practice for the farmer to sell to his men wheat at a certain fixed price?—Not to my knowledge.

Is there any surplus of labour in that neighbourhood, which enables the farmers to dictate such very low conditions to their men?—I am not aware of its proceeding altogether from a surplus of labour: and I should ascribe it rather to the want of sufficient means on the part of the farmers, who are greatly deficient in capital.

Does your Lordship think that their means have been reduced since the peace?—As long as I have known that country, I am clearly of opinion that the farmers have taken a greater quantity of land than their capital would warrant; and I am also of opinion, confirmed by my own experience as a landed proprietor, that their means are greatly reduced, and are daily diminishing. The district which I speak of is from Holdsworth to Milton, and in the direction of Hatherly, and is a very hilly district. Some of the land which has been well cultivated is very valuable. In Buckinghamshire an application was recently made to me for allotments of land to the labourers, with which I most gladly complied; and the arrangement made is, that each labourer is to receive, on the land which is annually laid down in fallow by the farmer by whom he is employed, about half a rood of land, which the farmer is to manure for him; and it is perfectly clear that any sum, however small, which the farmer receives more than the actual expense of the manure, is a clear gain to him. Those cottagers who have pigstyes, which is not the case with all of them, are also to receive pigs for them at my expense. The whole of that parish of Hoggston belongs to me, and the poor's rates were, when I was last informed, about 1s. 6d. in the pound on the rack-rent.

At what age are they to receive their pigs?—They are to receive them when about six or eight weeks old, and each is to have only one pig, which is to be fattened in the winter; and with a part of the proceeds another pig is to be purchased.

Can your Lordship state the number of acres in that parish?—I think between 1,400 and 1,500.

Can you state the population?—The population is small; by the last census it was 138.

Is the population sufficiently great in that parish to carry on the cultivation without assistance from other parishes?—I am informed that no labourers are brought in from other parishes, and the farmers are restrained, under the penalty of 50*l.*, by their leases, from bringing in any labourer who might acquire a settlement. The cottages are let at very low rents, and so far from being profitable, are, including the expenses of their repairs, and an annual donation which the labourers receive at Christmas, an actual expense.

Can your Lordship state, in any of the parishes in Kent, or any county, that the effect of this measure has been to reduce the poor's rates?—I am not aware

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that such has been the effect in the parishes where I have property; but the labourers are grateful for the allotments, and consider them advantageous.

In Derbyshire are the labourers in comfortable circumstances, or otherwise?—I am of opinion that the labourers in Derbyshire enjoy several advantages, and amongst others, the great cheapness of fuel; the rents which they pay me are also very low, as I wish in all instances to be the case with respect to the labourers.

Does your Lordship happen to know the rate of wages in Derbyshire?—I did not know till yesterday that I was to have the honour of being examined by this Committee, and I did not bring that information which I have already obtained with respect to the wages of the labourers; but I believe that the practice of having house servants is more general there than in other parts of the country; and I think that system which prevailed in former times is greatly conducive to the comfort of the labourers, and tends to prevent early and improvident marriages. I would observe, with respect to Derbyshire, that all my farms are of small extent; I believe the largest does not contain more than about 160 acres.

Can your Lordship state the wages in the parish of Hoggston, in Buckinghamshire?—The wages of labourers in Hoggston are, I understand, about 8s. or 9s. a week; and an arrangement was long since made to provide them with coals at a moderate expense. I purchase the coals, and the farmers bring them.

Are they enabled, upon the 9s. a week they receive, to support their families; or, when they are numerous, is part of the burden thrown upon the parish?—They are in general enabled to support their families; and those who have not regular and constant employment work as roundsmen.

Do the farmers in that parish furnish the labourers with any portion of their provisions at a cheaper rate than they are sold generally?—I have never heard that such is the case.

Is there any village in the neighbourhood?—There is a small village belonging to me, bearing that name; but a village so small as to be inhabited altogether by labourers or farmers.

Do the poor in that parish suffer much from the exorbitance of retail shops?—I am not aware that they suffer in that parish; and, as the whole of it belongs to me, I should be extremely anxious to take measures to prevent so great an evil, considering it to be one of the first duties of a landed proprietor to provide as far as he is able for the comforts of the poor; but, I believe, in other districts it is an evil which is very severely felt; and I am informed that the shopkeepers encourage the poor to run into their debt, in order that they may ensure them as customers, and charge them whatever price they think proper. It is, I think, much to be regretted that the consumer does not receive the full benefit of low prices, which do not, in consequence, encourage consumption so much as would otherwise be the case; and, as a proof of this, I may mention, that some pigs which, during the agricultural distress of the year 1821–22, were sold by a needy farmer at Smithfield for 3d. a pound, were afterwards retailed by the butcher who purchased them for 6d. or 7d. a pound; and I am decidedly of opinion that this evil would be prevented by recurring to what was the ancient law of this country, and what is still the practice in many states of the Continent, by regulating, from time to time, under the directions of the magistrates, the retail prices according to the wholesale prices; and that the experience of that system has been found, wherever it has been tried, to be eminently beneficial.

Are the roundsmen paid by the farmer or by the parish?—I understand they are paid by the farmer.

Is your Lordship acquainted with any parish in which the population is too great for the present means of employment?—That is less the case in the parish I inhabit, of Chelvening, near Seven Oaks, than it is in some parishes adjoining, in which there appears to be a surplus of labour, arising, as I conceive, from the poverty of the farmers. Many years ago I attended some vestries, and proposed that those who were permanently or temporarily without employment should be provided with spinning-wheels and knitting-needles to spin or to knit stockings, and that the men should have a loom, which I offered to buy for them at my own expense; and I thought that such labour, which could be exercised at all times of the year, and without being influenced by the weather, would be profitable to the parish, and would provide it with several articles of clothing for the poor, which it would otherwise be obliged to purchase. The measures I recommended for that purpose were, that they should be paid by the parish as heretofore receiving

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receiving a small sum as pocket-money, according to the quantity of work which they performed, which would avoid any trouble or inconvenience of superintendence by the overseers; and it appeared clear to me that articles of clothing would thus be provided at no other expense than the raw material, adding thereto the small sums which would thus be paid to the labourers. These proposals were in one instance adopted, but remained as a dead letter on the books, never having been carried into effect. In another parish they were objected to on the ground that the number of poor permanently relieved would not be sufficient for the purpose; to which I observed, that those who were occasionally relieved might also be so employed during the time that such relief was granted; that it was extremely desirable in all respects to find profitable employment for the labourers, and not to send them on the roads, which, when they do not require any repair or improvement, are actually injured by their employment; and that it was also most desirable to avoid those useless employments, which are altogether degrading and improper. Having learned that some persons had actually been employed in drawing a cart laden with stones from a common, I wrote immediately to the overseer, expressing to him my indignation at the circumstance, and informing him that if such a practice were not entirely and for ever discontinued, I should consider it to be my duty to convene a vestry, and to complain of his conduct, and to require his dismissal. He thereupon came to me, and represented that the practice had not recently taken place, but that it was done at the recommendation of the vestry, and under the authority of the magistrates. I advised him, whatever directions he might receive upon the subject, to decline following that practice, and rather to relinquish his situation. The sentiments which he expressed in his conversation with me showed that he was a humane person, and would not be inclined to act spontaneously with harshness or severity.

Have the goodness to explain in what manner the articles worked by knitting-needles or the loom were to be disposed of, and for whose benefit?—The articles of clothing so provided were intended to be given to the poor in the workhouse, and to others who might apply for assistance, so far as they required clothing; and for many reasons it seemed very desirable to give relief in kind rather than in money.

Was it intended that the parish should find the articles to be so worked up?—It was intended that the parish should buy the raw materials; and that they should be manufactured by those who applied for relief, and who would receive, as an encouragement, a certain sum in proportion to the quantity of goods delivered, and in addition to the sum which they would, at all events, receive from the parish.

Has your Lordship turned your attention to the possibility of relieving the redundant population existing in particular districts, by home colonization?—Many years ago I suggested a plan for that purpose, having been informed by a landed proprietor in Yorkshire that he possessed a considerable tract of land at a distance from any large town, and without any resident population, and which was, as he described it, of a fertile nature, being to about the depth of two feet a rich peat, with abundance of stone and slate, which might serve for the purposes of building; and another gentleman mentioned to me that he had bought on speculation some land, on the confines of Yorkshire and Cheshire, which was also without any resident population, and at a distance from any large town, and that, therefore, he found it utterly impracticable to cultivate it. I proposed, therefore, that those labourers who were not able to find employment, and were in consequence chargeable to the parish, should be located in these districts; that they should be employed in the first instance in building cottages, which, with the assistance of the stone and the slate, and as their labour would be paid for by the parish, would be constructed at a very small additional charge; that the cottages should be so disposed as to allow the allotments to be indefinitely extended, according to the means which the occupiers might possess for their cultivation; that they should continue to be supported, as heretofore, by the parish, until they should have tilled the ground and gathered the crops which they might raise; and that then, those allotments being of sufficient size for their support, such assistance would no longer be necessary, and would consequently cease; that it did not appear to me that any legislative measure was requisite for the purpose, except, perhaps, in order to enable the proprietors of those lands to charge thereon the sum which might be requisite to pay the interest of the money so expended; and that the proprietors would ultimately receive great benefit from the cultivation

Earl Stowage.

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tion of those lands, which had hitherto remained sterile and of little or no value. I thought that by giving such allotments villages would in time be formed; that butchers, bakers, tailors, shoemakers and others, would find employment in such places, and that those who possessed those allotments would afterwards raise surplus produce for the purposes of sale, and that the profits of that surplus produce would yield rent. No assistance from Government would have been required for a loan of public money, as persons possessed of capital would gladly lend it on landed security to any amount; and the amount requisite would not be large. This proposal was made to a meeting held in London, which professed to have for its object the encouragement of industry and the reduction of poor's rates; it seemed to be approved by those who were present; but was not, so far as I have heard, adopted in any district.

Does your Lordship think that, under the present circumstances of the case, any private capitalist would be likely to advance money to carry such an object into effect?—I think they would, inasmuch as their money would be lent on landed security; and that those who held the land in fee would be able to charge it in the manner above mentioned, without any legislative enactment for the purpose.

Do you not conceive that much greater facility would be afforded towards effecting this object if the Government could be induced to advance money for the purpose?—I think that the sanction and encouragement of Government might be certainly beneficial, though not absolutely necessary.

What portion of land does your Lordship know of, applicable to such objects?—I am not personally acquainted with the land to which I have referred, but have spoken from the information of the persons to whom I have referred.

According to your information, what quantity of land does your Lordship conceive there is, which might be obtained for that purpose?—I believe that the districts are of considerable extent; and there is an obvious difference between bringing lands into cultivation for the purposes of a farm, in which case a market is required, and cultivating land, where the greatest part of the produce is consumed by the occupiers themselves.

Had the person who was in possession of that property been long in possession of it?—I do not think he had possessed it long; but it is now, I should think, 11 years ago since I conversed with him upon that subject, and I have not recently seen him.

Does your Lordship think that any facility would be afforded for carrying this proposal into execution, if parishes were enabled to advance money for the sake of placing some of their labourers on such new allotments, retaining to themselves the power of having that expenditure repaid to them within an indefinite period, after the improvements which have taken place by their means?—I think that the power which might be given to parishes to borrow money is extremely dangerous, and might be very prejudicial in its consequences; that it would be, in fact, a power given to farmers to mortgage the property of their landlords.

Would your Lordship have the same objection to that power being given to landlords if it were limited with reference to the amount of poor's rates the parish had paid for some time past, and with reference to the expected benefit from the reduction of the poor's rates?—I think the power objectionable in any case and under any circumstances.

Does your Lordship feel any confidence that there would be a likelihood of capital sufficient being produced to carry home colonization into effect to any extent, unless Government, or some other large capitalist, were looked to to furnish such capital?—I do not think that large capitalists would be required, inasmuch as the sums that would be wanted for commencing domestic colonization need not be very large.

If the public were to receive any considerable benefit from the system of domestic colonization, does not your Lordship think it must be carried to the extent of some hundreds of thousands of persons?—I have no doubt it ultimately might be carried to a great extent.

If the attempt were to be made gradually, does not your Lordship think that the vacancy produced by the locating of comparatively few, would be likely to be filled up in such a manner that no perceptible benefit could be likely to be felt, so far as a benefit was expected to be derived from the parish being relieved from a given portion of that population?—I do not know whether any persons would

be likely at first to make those experiments on a large scale, and therefore the relief to be obtained by such means must be gradual.

If your Lordship thinks that the removal of what is called the redundant population from some places to other districts in the country, where they might be advantageously situate, would be a matter of national importance, do you not conceive it would be expedient for the Government, or some great capitalist, to provide the means for such colonization?—I certainly think it might be expedient for Government to authorize a loan of Exchequer bills for such purposes; but I should look to the general relief of the country as affording the best remedy for all those evils.

By affording the best remedy for all those evils, is your Lordship to be understood to make any such measure unnecessary?—Yes, except under very particular circumstances; and the circumstances to which I would allude are, a number of persons being suddenly deprived of employment, and obliged to solicit parochial relief.

Does your Lordship think that it would be acceptable to such labourers as are in very reduced and uncomfortable situations, in many of the agricultural districts, to be located in some domestic colony?—I should think that it might, but I am not aware of the question having been asked of them; and many persons feel a great objection to leave a district in which they were born, and have always resided.

Would your Lordship not presume that they would have a much greater objection to be removed out of the country than to be removed to a different part of the country?—Unquestionably; and a removal out of the country is a punishment awarded by law in certain cases.

Does not your Lordship conceive that the well-understood interest, not of the occupiers but of the proprietors, would induce them to advance the capital necessary to remove the superabundant population from any given district to another district, either in this or in foreign countries?—If the landed proprietors were willing themselves to advance the money requisite for the purpose of executing the project of home colonization, the objections which I stated as to the parishes borrowing money would not of course weigh; but if it is meant by the question, whether their interests, well understood, would lead them to advance the capital necessary for the facilitating the removal of persons to other countries, I am of opinion, that though the plan might be attended with great advantages in some cases, and though it has been shown by experience that, in consequence of the general distress which now prevails, persons are emigrating of their own accord from many parts of the country, yet that the natural effect of emigration is to deprive the country of some of its best and most valuable labourers, and of those who are consumers both of agricultural produce and of manufactured goods, and who thereby contribute to the support of the revenue. I have no doubt that persons possessed of sufficient capital might remove to other countries, and to some parts of the Continent, and might be enabled to employ their capital to more advantage than they could at home. I am not competent to speak of the advantages which labourers might receive in going to any of the British colonies, but, with respect to any country not under the protection of the British government, great inconvenience, and in some cases great injury, might arise from sending persons to countries where they would have no legal claims of support, where their own scanty means might be soon exhausted, and where they would, in consequence, become ere long wholly destitute.

Does not your Lordship believe that want of employment is a great evil to the labourers of this country?—Undoubtedly; the want of employment and insufficient wages are the two great evils: both the one and the other appear to me to be the effect of the general poverty of those who would otherwise give them employment.

Does not your Lordship believe that, if any means could be adopted for reducing the number of persons seeking for work, better wages would be given, and more constant employment to those that would remain?—I should certainly conceive that such might be the effect.

Do you not believe, that those who are not now called good labourers, because they spend their time in idleness, would become better members of society when they felt themselves independent of the overseer?—Such might be the case.

Does not your Lordship believe that the labourers in this country are under great privations in consequence of not being able to get work?—Unquestionably; but

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1 March 1831.

Earl Stanhope.

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but we should consider rather the cause than the effect of the evil. The want of work I consider to be one of the effects and symptoms of the evil, but by no means its cause.

Does not your Lordship believe that in many districts in England there are more men seeking for employment than can be profitably employed?—I believe that such is the case in the present situation of the country, but solely in consequence of legislative measures; and that if the country were to be replaced in a state of prosperity, full and constant employment and adequate wages might be provided for every labourer.

Has your Lordship any idea of the expense that would attend home colonization?—I have already given some opinion upon that point; but the experiment not having been actually tried, I cannot speak as to the expense that it would occasion. I conceive that the expense in the first instance would be small, and that it would be merely the expense of building the cottages, with the aids I mentioned, and of support till the crops could be raised.

Does not your Lordship think that a great deal of the land which is called uncultivated in England, is not capable of profitable cultivation?—Such may be the case in some instances, but it does not appear to have been the case with respect to the lands of the two proprietors to whom I have before alluded, inasmuch as those lands were kept out of cultivation from the want of a resident population.

Does not your Lordship believe that considerable difficulty would exist in determining the rights of persons upon uncultivated land?—The cases to which I have referred were those in which there was no resident population, and in such cases I can conceive no such rights could practically exist.

Is not your Lordship aware that there are many rights in England of the land of the manor, copyhold tenants, and other rights supposed to exist?—There certainly are; and in all cases of inclosures the rights of those persons should be most specially protected; and all those who erect cottages upon those lands should receive sufficient allotments of land upon them, of greater value than the rights which they formerly exercised; and the lands so inclosed ought not to be cultivated for the exclusive benefit of those great landed proprietors who may have rights thereon.

Will your Lordship give your opinion why those uncultivated lands in England were not brought into cultivation at the time when wheat was 30*l.* or 40*l.* a load?—Partly from the reason which I stated in the former part of my evidence; the great difference which exists between the cultivation of land as a farm, in which case a sufficient market would be required, and the cultivation of land in allotments, the occupiers of which must consume the greatest part of its produce, which might however yield a certain surplus for rent.

Will your Lordship state the quantity of land you conceive there is in England which is applicable to that purpose?—I cannot state the exact quantity of such land; but I have always understood that it is very considerable, and that there are several millions of acres of land fit for cultivation, which remain hitherto uncultivated.

Is your Lordship aware that evidence has been given before the Committee of the House of Commons, stating the number of productive acres of waste land?—I find in the Minutes of Evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Commons on Emigration, in the year 1827, that Mr. William Couling, a civil engineer and land surveyor, stated the number of uncultivated acres in England and Wales to amount to 3,984,000, and that the number of acres of uncultivable land were 4,361,400.

Does your Lordship know what Mr. Couling meant by uncultivated land; whether he meant woods and forests?—I consider that land employed in wood may be considered as cultivated in that mode.

Does your Lordship consider that the Wiltshire and Sussex downs are uncultivated?—The explanation which Mr. Couling himself gives of the term uncultivated, is the waste lands that are capable of being converted into arable lands, gardens, meadows, or pastures.

Your Lordship does not know anything on this subject, but from the evidence of Mr. Couling, a surveyor?—I cannot profess to speak or to give any opinion of my own respecting the number of acres of uncultivated land which might be rendered profitable in the different districts of the country, or in the whole of England; but I have found in many works which mention this subject, a statement that the quantity of such land is very considerable; and, if I recollect right, that statement

ment was also made by a person of great knowledge and experience, who was president of the Board of Agriculture; I mean Sir John Sinclair.

Your Lordship cannot state whether commons are included in Mr. Couling's Return as uncultivated?—They probably are.

Is not your Lordship aware that people have rights upon the commons, to turn out cows, and sheep, and geese, and other stock?—Undoubtedly they have; and it would be extreme injustice to deprive them of those rights without giving to them sufficient allotments of lands, which I conceive would be more profitable to them than the rights they now exercise.

Do you not believe that the labourers in England have suffered very severely by inclosure bills, which have in many instances prevented their keeping a cow, which formerly enabled them to maintain their families without application to the parish rates?—I am certainly of opinion that such has been the case, but I conceive that to have arisen from the defects of the measure, and not from the measure itself; and I am also of opinion that the destruction of small farms, and the formation of large farms, has much diminished the comforts of the people, and injured the prosperity of the country; and it is my invariable practice, whenever it is in my power, to divide large farms, and I have found it profitable to myself, and highly beneficial to others. For instance, a farm near me, of about 170 acres, if I recollect rightly, was offered by me to the parish as a parish farm; it was refused; and then I let it in five different divisions, at a higher rent than that at which I offered it to the parish, and that at which it was before let.

Is your Lordship aware that, in many of the Inclosure Acts, the cottagers received an allotment of ground?—They may have done so, but of course I cannot speak as to the provisions of the immense number of Acts of Inclosure which have passed of late years.

Did not your Lordship ever hear that those cottagers sold their allotments of land immediately upon their being surrendered to them?—I never heard it.

Did not your Lordship ever hear that the labourers of this country say that they would much prefer having the turn-out of a cow to having an acre or two of land?—I am not aware that such opinion has been expressed by them; but of course, the keep of a cow requires a greater quantity of land than an acre or two.

Then your Lordship believes that home colonization would be a gradual amelioration of the system?—I conceive that home colonization is beneficial to a certain extent; but I am perfectly ready to admit, that under the present situation of the country, with its present taxation and with its present currency, no adequate remedy can be adopted without a very material alteration in those respects.

Does not your Lordship conceive that, in a great many instances, the fund for labour has been increased by the breaking up of what are called the wastes and commons?—Certainly. I would also state, that the want of employment now so generally and so severely felt arises in a great measure from the want of a sufficient remuneration of the farmer in the cultivation of arable land; and that a farmer residing near me, and who occupies a very considerable quantity of land, informed me he had 200 acres which were formerly employed in the cultivation of corn, and which he has been obliged to employ in pasture; the consequence of which is, and must be, a diminution of employment of those who formerly worked upon this arable land.

Perhaps your Lordship is of opinion that, owing to the greater demand for employment where wastes have been broken up, the wages have risen in consequence, and the people have been benefited by a greater competition for their labour?—I should think that it must have been an advantage to them in that respect, and that an allotment of land must either be of such a size as to give a labourer sufficient occupation without any other work, or if it be of a smaller size, that he must have other labour; because it is clear, that if the land does not yield any surplus produce, and if the labourer holding the land has no regular wages of labour, no rent can be paid; and such I believe to be the case in some of the very small allotments which are to be found in Ireland.

If there is an excess of population at present, would a pauper settlement at home remedy that excess?—I am not of opinion that there is generally an excess of population; though undoubtedly there may appear to be such in certain districts, and from particular causes.

Those causes being legislative enactments?—Those causes may not in all cases arise from legislative enactments. The failure of a manufactory may throw upon a parish

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a parish an immense number of persons for support; an undue extension of machinery may also throw a great number of persons out of employment; but in those districts which are entirely agricultural, I do not believe that there is a greater number of persons than could be profitably employed, or than are actually requisite, taking the average of the year.

Has your Lordship any plan to suggest to ameliorate the condition of the labouring classes of this country?—I conceive that several plans might be adopted with considerable benefit; but that no general or effectual remedy can be adopted without relieving the country from that extreme pressure of taxation which has arisen from the alteration of the currency, increasing as it has done greatly the real amount of all payments that are made. I think that the labourer has an undoubted indefensible right to the employment of his labour, which constitutes his property; and that the due mode of investigation would be to consider what is the sum which it is requisite a labourer should receive for his comfortable subsistence, making no distinction between those who are married and those who are unmarried, unless they have large families, such distinction operating as a premium upon marriage, and an undue encouragement to population: and upon this point I would beg leave to call the attention of the Committee to a most excellent little tract, recently published, entitled, "A plain Statement of the Case of the Labourer," which I now deliver for the perusal of the Committee. I am not aware who is the writer of it. It would then be seen what the payments were which it is requisite should be made to the labourer for his comfortable subsistence; what rents could be paid by the farmer; and what measures should be adopted for the general relief of the country, in order to enable those wages to be paid. I am not aware that many complaints were made of an excess of population in the year 1818, and in the early part of the year 1825, when the situation of the country was much more prosperous than it is at present; and I conceive those complaints, which are very just and well founded, to have arisen from measures that have tended to the general impoverishment of the country.

Is your Lordship not aware, that at those periods you have alluded to, 1818 and 1825, there were vast numbers of labourers out of employment during the winter months?—Some labourers must, no doubt, have been out of employ during the winter months, and that may have arisen in a great measure from the want of any domestic industry in which they could employ themselves during the winter months. Many occupations of labourers on the Continent, and, formerly, in this country, are now entirely superseded by the introduction of machinery, which rendered it altogether unprofitable.

Is not your Lordship of opinion that agriculture in no country can be carried on to the best advantage unless there is a population which is not fully employed during the whole of the year?—When the domestic industry to which I have alluded cannot be exercised, a greater number of persons must be employed during the summer than can usually find employment during the winter; but I conceive that the average of the whole year should be considered.

Does your Lordship think we could compete, without machinery, with the foreign manufactures?—I think that the principal care of government ought to be to protect and encourage the home market, which is by far the most extensive, the most valuable, and the most secure. I think also, that from the progress which foreign nations are making in machinery, we may not long be able to compete with them, even with the advantage we have hitherto possessed in that respect.

Has your Lordship any experience, as a magistrate, with respect to the tendency of the Poor Laws?—I have not, having always declined to act as a magistrate.

What other measures of relief has your Lordship to suggest for the agricultural labourer?—I think that there are many measures of relief which might, to a certain extent, prove beneficial. I consider the allotments of land, of which I have before spoken, to be of that description, that profitable employment might be found for the labourers, who are often sent upon the roads when they are not required. I think, also, that great advantage might result to the labourer from the establishment of a labour rate, in which case the poor rates would be confined to their original object, the relief of those unable to work, and the labourer would receive adequate wages; but that no relief would be received by the farmer, who would be still more unable to pay the wages fixed by the labour rate than he is at present to pay a smaller amount in poor's rates.

What does your Lordship mean by a labour rate?—I mean, by a labour rate, giving to all the labourers of the parish such wages as they may be entitled to receive according to their several capacities for work, and giving it to those who would otherwise be employed by the parish, not being permanently employed by any occupiers of lands.

Who is to decide what equivalent wages are?—I think that the minimum of wages might be fixed by the magistrates, as, I believe, is now the case with respect to the relief given to those who require assistance.

Does your Lordship propose to allow the magistrates to fix the rate of rents?—Certainly not; but the rate of rents would of course be regulated, amongst other circumstances, by the wages of labour; and I think we should work upwards in the scale, considering, first, what are the wages which the labourer is entitled to receive, and, after their payment, what is the rent which could be received from the farmer; and considering whether, or how far it is possible, under the present system and with the present currency, to support the present amount of taxation; from which it would obviously appear, either that the taxation must be very much reduced, or that the currency must be altered.

Does not your Lordship think that the present price of labour is very much governed by the demand and supply?—The market price of labour must be regulated by the supply and demand; but I am of opinion, as I had before the honour of expressing to the Committee, that the labourer has an undoubted right to the employment of his labour.

Does your Lordship mean to say that the landowners ought to be bound to employ him?—I think they certainly ought, when those labourers have not, by allotments of land or in other modes, other sources of support; and I would here observe, that in several, if not in all of the States of Germany, the labourers are copyholders, and derive great advantage from the occupation of land, which, however, in some states is heavily burdened by direct taxes, land-tax and others; but that such are the advantages which they receive, that in those countries poor's rates do not exist; and as far as my experience, which is very considerable, extends, I am fully convinced that the labourers in those countries live in much greater comfort than they do in this.

Would you throw the whole of the expense of employing the labourers of this country, and providing for the old and helpless, upon the land?—Certainly not; and I consider it an extreme injustice that such is now practically the case. I conceive, that, according to principles of justice, all persons should contribute to the support of the poor according to their means; and though I should not suggest for that purpose the establishment of an income or property tax, I maintain that manufacturers should be rated, not as they are at present, according to the extent of the premises they occupy, but according to the amount of capital which they have invested in machinery, which would not require any return of the profits of their manufactures; and that all persons should be called upon to contribute to that which is no less a Christian duty and a moral obligation, than a duty which ought to be imposed upon them by legislative enactment.

Is not your Lordship aware that in the manufacturing districts the manufacturers do pay in equal proportion to the rate compared with that which the agriculturists pay?—I should think certainly not, in cases where both of them pay, and where a comparison might be made between them. I apprehend that the manufacturer is rated according to the extent of his premises, and at the rent which would be paid for those premises, without any reference to his machinery and to his capital invested; that in large towns premises of a considerable size may be rated high, but in those large towns, if the parish does not extend beyond the limits of the town, there is no agricultural rate whatever, and no comparison can be justly instituted between them. In an agricultural parish with which I am acquainted, and in which there is a considerable manufactory, I believe the premises are rated only for the buildings and the quantity of land attached to them, without any reference to the employment of those premises.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Friday next, Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 4^o Martii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

4 March 1831.

Order of adjournment read.

After discussion;

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, Twelve o'clock.*Die Martis, 8^o Martii 1831.*

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

8 March 1831.

Order of adjournment read.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Friday next, Twelve o'clock.*Die Veneris, 11^o Martii 1831.*

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Reverend *John Thomas Becker*, is called in; and Examined as follows:Rev.
*John Thos. Becker.*11 March 1831.

WHERE do you reside?—At Southwell in Nottinghamshire. I am a magistrate for the county of Nottingham and for the Liberty of Southwell and Scrooby, for which parts I have acted during the last 27 years, and for the last 24 years have been chairman of the quarter sessions for both those divisions.

Have you, during that period, turned your attention to the administration of the Poor Laws?—I have, during that period, and antecedent to that period, since the year 1793, when I first became a parochial clergyman.

At what period do you imagine the practice of paying the wages of labour out of the poor's rates originated?—The first conversation that I recollect having received on that subject was in conjunction with the late Sir Richard Sutton, who had been Under Secretary of State, and resided at Norwood Park, in the parish of Southwell. He received about the year 1795, from Berkshire, a Statement, apportioning the relief granted to labourers according to the price of the peck loaf; which table had been framed, as I believe, by the magistrates of Berkshire, at a general meeting held at Speenhamland in that county, and was the revival of another table which had then and there been proposed for this purpose. Both those tables have subsequently been given by Sir Frederick Eden in the first volume of his Treatise concerning the Poor, and he there anticipates the evil consequences likely to result from them.

Have

Have you a copy of those allowances?—I have not a copy of those allowances, but they are to be found in the first volume of *Eden on the Poor Laws*, page 376; and the next communication that I heard of upon the subject was from the county of Norfolk, upon which the observation of Mr. Burke, in his *Thoughts upon Scarcity*, was, “that the squires of Norfolk had dined when they attempted to regulate the prices of human labour.”

Rev.
John Thos. Escher.
11 March 1831.

Was that table adopted in your neighbourhood?—It was the decided opinion of Sir Richard Sutton, that it would pauperise the country if it were adopted, and in consequence it was unanimously rejected.

Can you state what was the poor rate at Southwell at that time?—Had I known that the question would be proposed, I could easily have stated that fact; our accounts are very accurate; but according to the Parliamentary Returns, the expenditure for the poor at Southwell was, for the year ended at Easter 1813, 1,378*l.*; for 1814, 1,450*l.*; and for 1815, 1,560*l.* I hold in my hand a statement of the expenditure for the poor of the parish of Southwell, from the year commencing at Lady-day, 1821, to Lady-day, 1830, and it will be found from this statement that the expenditure exclusively on account of the poor, omitting fractional parts of a pound, was 2,006*l.* in 1821; 1,425*l.* in 1822; 589*l.* in 1823; and 517*l.* in 1824; consequently these sums exhibit a reduction in four years from 2,006*l.* to 517*l.*, and amount to a diminution in the charge of 75 per cent. The expenditure has since remained nearly at the same standard. The statement in my hand will furnish, I believe, all the particulars which are requisite for the information of your Lordships. Upon this statement I beg leave to observe, that when pauperism had been advancing, up to 1821 the sum paid to paupers for employment on account of the parish was 292*l.*, and for rents 60*l.*; which out-payments were, in 1824, reduced to nothing for employment, and nothing for rent, so that these two items of charge have been, by the anti-pauper system, completely extinguished.

[*The Witness delivers in the Paper, which is read, and is as follows:*]

A STATEMENT of the EXPENDITURE of the Parish

DISBURSEMENTS.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1831.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1832.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1833.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1834.
Bread, flour and meal - - - - -	£. s. d. 57 9 4	£. s. d. 65 16 9	£. s. d. 28 10 2	£. s. d. 31 1 4
Butchers' meat - - - - -	78 14 4½	51 16 9½	12 6 5	15 12 6½
Cheese - - - - -	8 15 4	9 7 1	5 19 5½	8 - 8½
Apparel - - - - -	34 16 7½	30 5 5	11 11 6½	6 6 6½
Cools - - - - -	60 15 5	19 8 7	21 3 8	17 7 1
Groceries - - - - -	26 12 4	12 16 2½	10 7 11½	8 9 12
Repairs - - - - -	55 19 9½	187 9 11	11 10 8½	7 12 6½
Soap and candles - - - - -	5 16 8	4 12 6	2 11 5	2 10 6
Sundries for workhouse - - - - -	51 17 7½	68 12 4½	38 16 3½	25 3 1½
Disbursements for Workhouse - - -	410 17 6	451 5 7½	142 17 7½	132 6 1½
Resident permanent paupers - - - -	308 2 2	369 5 6	218 6 3	210 6 2
Resident occasional paupers - - - -	138 9 4	68 6 11½	32 12 2	19 10 6
Non-resident permanent paupers - - -	93 8 6	41 17 -	30 16 2	13 17 6
Non-resident occasional paupers - - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
Bastard children - - - - -	60 1 5½	79 12 6½	26 8 6	13 - 6
For Workhouse and for Relief - - -	1,510 18 11½	1,010 8 7½	432 1 8½	330 - 11½
Locavics - - - - -	70 - 7	17 5 4	- - -	13 17 1
Apparel for paupers - - - - -	27 6 1	7 7 7½	- 15 -½	3 4 8
Employment - - - - -	292 9 11½	92 7 6½	2 10 6	-
Funerals - - - - -	11 10 4	8 17 6	7 16 9	4 8 10½
Medical attendance - - - - -	63 12 1	54 1 9	35 19 4	25 15 2
Rents - - - - -	184 17 11	85 5 10	- - -	- - -
Incidental charges - - - - -	92 16 2½	85 15 8½	28 1 5½	12 16 3
Salaries and expenses - - - - -	35 15 -	65 8 6	62 2 6	28 11 -
Amount of Disbursements - - -	2,006 7 1½	1,425 18 4½	539 7 3½	517 13 7
Law expenses - - - - -	6 19 -	11 8 -	6 18 -	11 4 -
Churchwardens' accounts - - - - -	25 11 6	22 3 6	20 5 4	10 8 1
County rates - - - - -	197 16 10	172 9 11	123 6 7	125 6 -½
Constables' accounts - - - - -	17 17 3	16 - 9½	20 9 5½	17 - 1½
TOTAL AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE - -	2,254 11 8½	1,648 - 7½	760 6 7½	700 11 1½

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.
11 March 1831.

What are the principal features of the anti-pauper system to which you have alluded?—They are minutely detailed in a little pamphlet I published, entitled, "The Anti-pauper System," which was out of print in a short time after its publication. But my principles are briefly these:—to treat the poor as you would your own children; to consider that their rights are few, and therefore studiously to respect them; to pay the labourer his hire, and to regard any endeavour to pay wages out of the rates as a combination against the labourers for the purpose of imposing upon the wages of one man the sustentation of another fellow labourer; to infuse into them the principles of self-support and foresight; and to provide them with savings banks, friendly societies, and every other opportunity that the law will authorize as instruments for supporting themselves in honest independence. The system is laid down in the work to which I have referred

of Southwell, in the County of Nottingham.

For the Year ending at Lady Day 1845.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1846.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1847.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1848.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1849.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1850.	For the Year ending at Lady Day 1851.
<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i> .	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i> .	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i> .	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i> .	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i> .	<i>£</i> <i>s</i> <i>d</i> .	
35 15 3½	37 15 5	38 16 7	46 11 5	49 7 3	40 8 2½	
28 12 3½	28 3 6	25 5 11	37 3 11½	35 2 5	26 17 7½	
3 15 11	1 18 3	1 10 4½	2 5 11	3 9 4½	1 13 4	
3 9 9	8 14 9½	10 - 2	8 4 1	10 1 10	10 7 6½	
25 1 9½	24 1 8½	16 17 11	13 19 5½	17 5 10	15 14 -½	
8 16 9½	8 4 4½	7 16 -	8 14 4½	8 18 9½	9 12 3	
- 16 3	1 18 5	4 11 2½	3 17 2	1 1 7	1 18 1½	
2 10 9	2 1 1	2 7 10	1 12 9	3 9 11	1 - 9	
38 10 2½	38 13 4½	38 13 -	28 8 2½	31 17 8½	33 18 1	
130 10 -½	151 10 10½	145 19 -	149 17 4	159 14 9½	149 13 10½	
265 2 1	278 19 7	189 8 10	157 8 5	144 17 -	123 4 -	
34 14 4	39 15 -	16 17 2	21 10 6	13 19 3	19 9 2	
46 3 -	49 4 -	44 10 -	43 7 6	32 2 6	44 4 6	
1 13 -	6 8 -	39 - 10½	23 12 6	21 9 9	22 12 1	
20 1 6	26 8 -	21 - 2	21 16 3	29 16 3	32 12 9	
429 9 11½	443 5 5½	456 16 -½	417 11 6	431 19 6½	392 16 4½	
- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	13 - 9	16 15 2	
4 - 2	2 2 3	- 11 -	1 17 9	4 10 4½	5 13 2½	
- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
8 1 5½	13 17 -	10 12 10	11 1 3	17 16 3½	12 7 6	
46 14 9	37 19 6	50 2 6	31 - 6	26 6 -	30 18 -	
- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -	
26 19 9	29 11 8½	26 13 8½	32 4 2½	34 15 10	47 17 1	
56 - -	56 16 -	56 11 -	57 10 9	57 4 -	56 12 6	
559 - 1½	523 11 11	601 7 1½	551 6 11½	524 12 9½	568 19 10	
27 1 2	10 1 6	4 5 -	29 - 10½	5 3 -	9 1 -	
21 5 10	21 6 3	21 18 2	11 17 7	10 5 6	7 7 5	
139 19 -½	134 17 6½	179 11 11	158 13 11½	182 15 10½	194 16 4	
14 10 5	11 11 7½	9 9 2	9 18 4	10 10 10	7 12 10	
765 5 6½	761 8 10	807 11 4½	830 17 8½	793 7 11½	781 17 5	

whereof, from which I will beg leave to read an extract. "In the anti-pauper system all our arrangements should be strictly conformable to the laws of the realm. We do not profess to amend the provisions of the Legislature, but to enforce them. The rights of the poor are few, therefore they should be scrupulously respected; for the retrenchment of their imaginary claims will naturally inspire them with a disposition to resist any such innovation. But when they become convinced that their privileges are preserved without violation, and that our measures are founded upon legal and equitable principles, any opposition created by the impulse of the moment will gradually subside into patient and good-tempered acquiescence.

"The fundamental and operative law upon this important subject, is the statute passed in the forty-third year of Queen Elizabeth, by which all the preceding enactments

Rev.
John Tass. Secker.
11 March 1831.

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.

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enactments for the maintenance of the impotent poor were modified, matured, and consolidated. This should constitute the basis of our superstructure; and to obtain an authentic exposition of its principles we must constantly consult the elaborate Report of the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Poor Laws in 1817, for which we are principally indebted to the Right honourable William Sturges Bourne, the Chairman of that Committee.

" However, before we can enforce discipline so as to control the vicious and refractory, we must provide a place of refuge as well as of restraint. For this purpose, commence your measures for the reformation of the poor by the establishment of a parochial workhouse, affording the means of distributing males, females and children, both by day and by night, into separate classes, and of subdividing these classes into distinct wards, according to the conduct and character of the paupers.

" If the population of the parish will not suffice for this purpose, unite with the surrounding parishes, and provide an incorporated workhouse under the Statute 22 Geo. 3, c. 83. Let the system of management insure every tenderness towards the infirm, the aged and the guildless, while it imposes wholesome restraint upon the idle, the profligate and the refractory.

" The system adopted at Southwell, and at the Thurgaton Hundred incorporated workhouse in the immediate vicinity of Southwell, presents the best practical exemplification within my knowledge. It is conducted without personal inconvenience to any of those who are connected with the management.

" The provisions for the workhouse should be purchased under the immediate superintendence of the parish officers, or the governor, or the secretary. The dietary of the paupers should be plain, but wholesome and sufficient. Any privations injurious to health should be preemptorily prohibited.

" Do not contract with any person for the lodging, keeping, or maintaining of your paupers; such engagements frequently consign the poor to the dominion of a merciless and rapacious master, who sacrifices duty and discipline to self-interest, while he endeavours to acquire an unjust profit by sustaining them with food defective in quality or deficient in quantity. Besides which, it cannot be imagined that the moral improvement of the individuals placed under the care of such contractors will occupy any considerable portion of their time or attention.

" Let the churchwardens, the overseers of the poor, and the guardians, if such officers have been appointed, assemble monthly, or weekly if necessary, and execute all the functions of a select vestry. Let them investigate carefully the legal settlement, the character, the conduct, and the means of subsistence attainable by every pauper claiming parochial relief; and let the particulars relating to each individual be entered in the columns in the register which I have framed for this purpose, and arranged in the following order:

- 1st. Resident Poor.
- 2d. Resident occasional Poor.
- 3d. Non-resident permanent Poor.
- 4th. Non-resident occasional Poor.
- 5th. Bastards.

" Register the first four classes under these heads:

(Number .)

Name _____
 Age _____
 Abode _____
 Single _____
 Married _____
 Widower or Widow _____
 Number of Children _____
 Occupation _____
 State of Health _____
 Character and Conduct _____

Average

Average weekly Earnings _____
 Weekly Relief _____
 When granted _____
 When withdrawn _____
 Remarks _____
 (Number)

Rev.
John Tice, Boston.

11 March 1844.

¹⁶ Bastards under these heads.

(Number .)

Name of Bastard _____

Age _____

Name of Father _____

Abode of Father _____

Occupation of Father _____

Name of Mother _____

Due weekly by Father _____

Due weekly by Mother _____

Weekly Relief _____

When granted _____

When withdrawn _____

Remarks _____

(Number .)

" Let it however be remembered, that the advantages resulting from a work-house must arise, not from keeping the poor in the house, but from keeping them out of it, by constraining the inferior classes to know and feel how demoralizing and degrading is the compulsory relief drawn from the parish to silence the clamour and to satisfy the cravings of wilful and woeful indigence; but how sweet and wholesome is that food, and how honourable is that independence, which is earned by persevering and honest industry.

"Relief independent of Employment?—When I speak of employment, I do not refer to employment paid for partly by the parish, but employment affording the means of livelihood to the individual. Relief, independent of employment, should, if possible, be withheld from able paupers not in the workhouse; but if granted, it should be given in money, not in apparel or provisions. It may be surmised that they will not expend money with discretion or frugality; let them be cautioned respecting its application; after which, if they wilfully waste it, let such relief be withheld, and consign them to the workhouse; but if they continue imprudent, and prove idle or disorderly, procure their commitment to the house of correction: teach them to economise their resources; and apprise them, that if they misapply such relief, they must abide the consequences of their criminal improvidence.

⁴ If persons, exercising trades which afford periodical but not constant occupation, should apply for relief, propose to lend them money upon their note, according to the Act 59 Geo. 3, c. 12, s. 29, and re-demand the loan when they return to full employment.

* The labourer is worthy of his hire: never pauperize him by reducing his wages below their just amount, or by making up the deficiency out of the poor rate: this extinguishes the incitement to industry and economy. The superficial observer may deem it a saving; but such a system debases the feelings, the principles, and the habits of the working classes. It is an illegal and ruinous misapplication of the parochial funds, which never ought to be practised by the ratepayers, nor tolerated much less recommended, by the magistracy.

“Relieve non-resident paupers with vigilant and scrupulous circumspection, as such out-payments are liable to constant abuses, and are not authorized by law.

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.
11 March 1831.

" If a person asking for relief is entitled to a pension as a soldier or as a seaman, let the payment arising from this source be applied towards the maintenance of his family; and if he refuses or neglects so to do, obtain, under the authority of the justices, an assignment of the pension to the parish officers for the time during which the pauper may continue chargeable.

" If the father, grandfather, mother, grandmother, or the children of any pauper are of sufficient ability to relieve him and maintain the pauper, either partly or wholly, require them respectively to contribute for this purpose according to their means, and, in case of their refusal, obtain an order of maintenance from the justices in petty sessions. It was never intended that the Poor Laws should supersede the natural obligations of consanguinity. When a widow, a female deserted by her husband, or the mother of an illegitimate child becomes incapable of supporting her offspring, propose to maintain the child or children in the workhouse, or under the care of some respectable nurse, provided the mother will enter into service and allow the parish such proportion of her wages as may be deemed equitable.

" In case the land occupied by the parish should not afford adequate employment for those who are without work, apply to the surveyors of the highways; if they cannot provide work, take more land into your occupation, and exercise every legitimate means within your power for increasing the stock of profitable house employment. However, the working classes should be taught, that an occasional suspension of employ by the state of the weather or by the season of the year, does not furnish a well-grounded claim for parish relief, for the poor must learn to subsist not upon their daily wages, but upon their annual average earnings. Neither the fluctuations of trade nor human casualties will allow any workman to labour regularly six days in the week.

" It appears highly advisable that every parish should provide a staple employment for such able-bodied persons as may, by their condition, establish a title to relief either in money or in work. The employment supplied by the parish should be of the most laborious and servile description, requiring but little ingenuity. It ought to be let invariably by the piece, on such terms as will produce not more than one-half or three-fourths of the sum yielded in the district by voluntary labour, and under such conditions as may prevent the poor from habitually resorting to these contracts for the ordinary means of subsistence.

" For this purpose the following works have been found effectual: digging; dibbling seed; weeding; quarrying stone; breaking, raising, and riddling gravel; and the removal by wheelbarrows of gross articles and substances which would otherwise be conveyed in carts. The price charged for carriage in wheelbarrows should be the same as that required for cartage. The main object is not to acquire profit, but to prevent idleness, and to constrain the poor to subsist upon their personal industry and exertion.

" The quantity of piece work allowed to each person should be proportioned according to the amount of the individual's claim for parochial relief.

" Allot a part of the parish land into small gardens, to be occupied, at a moderate rent, by such industrious poor persons as may be found willing to cultivate them, which they will find opportunities of doing, without interrupting their customary occupations. The rent should be paid in advance.

" If a poor person applies for relief on account of his numerous family, let it be recollected that a labourer's ordinary wages should support himself, his wife, and four children under ten years of age; but some of the children under this age, if exceeding four in number, may be sent during the day into the workhouse, there to be fed and schooled as at Southwell. If the poorhouse be situated at a distance, a working school may be established upon the same principle within the parish, at which such children may be schooled and victualled.

" Parish houses or cottages should be occupied by widows, or by aged and infirm poor. When persons of this description have been so accommodated, married persons having numerous families may be placed in such houses as remain untenanted. A man and his wife, if capable of labour, should pay a rent to the parish proportioned according to the number of their family. If the children exceed three, no rent should be paid; if three in number, the rent may be 11d. weekly; if two, 3d.; if one, 4½d.; if none, 6d.

" No rents should be paid by the parish on account of paupers.

" All tenements, however small, except the parish houses, should be assessed to the poor rates. This conveys to the inferior classes some knowledge of the burdens

hardens imposed upon the parish for the maintenance of the poor. By discharging small tenements from the payment of rates, the owners are relieved rather than the occupiers, as the rent of such tenements is proportionally advanced.

"Let every assessment be either a tenpenny rate, or a measure or a multiple of 10*d.*, such as 2*d.*, 5*d.*, 10*d.*, or 20*d.*" My reason for adopting this monetary division is, because you cannot assess correctly a sixpenny or a twelpenny rate; whereas, if you assess a tenpenny rate, it is evident that it amounts to a halfpenny for every shilling contained in the annual value assessed; if it is a fivepenny rate, it is a farthing in the shilling: moreover, by simply annexing a cypher to any number of pounds found in the annualty, we produce the pence in a tenpenny rate; for instance, to assess a tenpenny rate upon 100*l.*, add a cypher, and it gives 1,000*d.*, or 6*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.*, the rate required.

"Let the alehouses be well regulated, for which application must be made to the justices of the peace. Every public-house should be closed at the hour of eleven at night during the months of July, August, and September, and at the hour of ten during the remaining part of the year: on Sundays, they should be shut an hour earlier than the times above respectively specified.

"Orders of bastardy should be punctually enforced. The demand for payment should never be postponed beyond a month or six weeks. If the putative father neglects to make his payments, and they are not recoverable, propose to the mother an allowance of 9*d.* weekly for the maintenance of the child; or if she declines this offer, require her to pay 9*d.* weekly, being the amount of the order made in our parts upon the female in case she does not nurse the child, and send the child to be nursed at the workhouse. If a woman becomes the mother of a second bastard child, and suffers it to become chargeable to the parish, apply to the justices for her commitment to the house of correction. These proceedings may be adopted occasionally even on the birth of the first child, if the mother leads a life of notorious profligacy.

"All payments to the working classes by the parish or by their employers should be made on the day next immediately preceding the market day, that the poor may be enabled to purchase their necessities in the public market for ready money.

"Lunatics and dangerous idiots should be carried before the magistrates to be disposed of as the law directs. In case of insanity, the benefits to be derived from medical assistance depend in a great measure upon its immediate application, before the malady has been confirmed by habitual continuance.

"A list of the paupers actually chargeable, specifying the several allowances granted, as well as the names of the putative fathers of bastards in arrears to the parish, should be made quarterly and hung up in the vestry and in the overseer's office for public inspection.

"The system of accounts should be arranged with such perspicuity as to exhibit not only the general expenditure, but the amount under each of the several heads of classification before recommended.

"The parish accounts should be examined and authenticated monthly by the overseers of the poor, the churchwardens, and the guardians, or by the select vestry, and finally closed at the conclusion of every year on the 25th day of March; after which they should be submitted for the approval of a general vestry.

"An abstract of these annual accounts should be suspended in some public place for general inspection; and in populous parishes this abstract, as well as the before-mentioned list of chargeable paupers, may be printed and circulated. Publicity proves an admirable check to control extravagance in the parochial expenditure.

"The proceedings of the meetings held by the officers and the vestries should be faithfully recorded in writing, and periodically submitted to the parishioners on suitable occasions. Select vestries have never been appointed or required in our district. In some places they have been found useful; but when the general co-operation of the parishioners can be obtained, the superintendence of an open vestry is far more influential and satisfactory than the delegated authority of any select body, and certainly much better adapted to prevent the abuses of mal-administration.

"The expenditure incurred at parish meetings should be defrayed by the persons assembled. The payments for feasting, or even for moderate refreshment, should never be admitted in the parish accounts.

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"The appointment of an assistant overseer, with a suitable salary, is indispensably requisite for conducting the parochial concerns with steadiness and uniformity, for recording the proceedings of the meetings, and for keeping the accounts with regularity.

"A surgeon should be retained, and allowed an annual stipend for affording medical attendance, advice, and medicines to such poor persons as may be placed upon his list by the parish officers.

"The parochial charities should be carefully investigated, accurately registered, and faithfully applied.

"Lastly, let no endeavours be wanting to conciliate the countenance, the confidence, and the counsel of the magistrates, without which the exertions of the parish officers must prove irksome and inefficient.

"In return for this deference to the magistrates, it is earnestly hoped that they will abstain from interfering with the wages of labour, or from prescribing any scale of allowances payable out of the parish funds to able-bodied labourers. This injurious system has counteracted the principle by which demand and supply are balanced in the market of free labour, and has, throughout extensive districts, scandalously pauperized the whole of the working classes. The justices of the peace in these parts, foreseeing and dreading the ruinous tendency of such official meddling, have rigorously refused to lend their authority towards aiding or encouraging these dangerous innovations, and have strictly prohibited the pernicious practice of employing the poor as roundsmen or house-row labourers.

"The universal application of the anti-pauper system must depend upon the personal exertions of parochial officers, and the parishioners individually as well as collectively.

"Enough has been adduced to substantiate my affirmation, that the present management of the poor is frequently defective in principle and in policy. It subverts the moral feeling and the manly spirit of the laborious classes, while it exhausts the resources of the rated inhabitants, and generates an evil that threatens to endanger the safety of the state by its turpitude and enormity. We shall find it difficult to discover any reason why the system adopted at Southwell and in the neighbourhood, should not equally succeed in general practice; it is involved in no mysterious subtlety, but founded upon a strict, frugal and judicious administration of the Poor Laws. In distributing the parochial funds, it takes into consideration the character and conduct of the person applying for relief; it discriminates carefully between the innocent, the idle, the profligate, the sturdy, and the criminal claimants; it protects even the victims of their own follies and vices from absolute want, but checks the progress of indigence, with its inseparable companions, misery and guilt, by interposing that corrective discipline and salutary restraint which the wisdom and humanity of the Legislature have sanctioned, not less for the security of the rich than for the preservation and happiness of the poor. These, it must be acknowledged, are important duties, and their beneficial influence will be conclusively demonstrated if we contemplate the condition of the working classes in this district. Look at the independence, forethought and industry revived among the inferior members of the community; contrast the empty approaches to the justice-room at Southwell with the scene formerly presented by the wretched complainants who were accustomed to crowd before the magistrates with urgent applications for relief, grounded upon fictitious sufferings, and supported by shameless perjuries; proceed to our workhouses, observe the decency, cleanliness and comfort pervading every part of them; you will not then hesitate to pronounce every such establishment an hospital for the infirm, an asylum for the aged, and a school for the young, but a terror to the dissolute and refractory.

"Surely a permanent reduction of the parochial burdens, effected by recalling the poor to the duties of self-support and moral rectitude, is well entitled to the active and zealous co-operation of every individual who feels animated by a disposition to promote the welfare of the working classes or the general good of the community."

This extract includes the practical instructions which I have issued to the parishes, and they are strictly those by which they are governed in the parish of Southwell individually, with a rental of 9,681*l.* a year, according to our parochial valuation, and with a population of 3,057 persons, as well as in 49 united parishes, with a rental of 106,401*l.* a year, and with a population exceeding 14,279 persons. On Tuesday last, those 49 parishes were by their guardians all

assembled

assembled at our quarterly meeting; I stated to them the object of my attendance here, and desired them to give me individually an answer to this question: Have you any roundsmen or any able-bodied men, or any men of any description, whether able or infirm, who are paid partly out of the rates and partly by their employers? But out of these 49 united parishes, only three able-bodied persons were stated to have been relieved; one a man with five children, and another with six children, who receive a shilling each. Their answer was, that they understood, that if they could not support their families they were to give them assistance when their families exceeded four children in number. Besides these allowances, there was a half-crown given to a man of indifferent character, whom no person wished to employ. In certain hundreds, Nottinghamshire has been most grievously pauperized at one time, though not perhaps from the same causes as the southern counties are at this moment.

What has been the result of the adoption of this system in the habits of the lower orders?—The lower orders, before the adoption of this anti-pauper system were insolent, overbearing, and refractory, not only towards the overseers of the poor, but even occasionally towards the magistrates; the doors of our petty sessions were weekly thronged with applicants for parochial relief, which the paupers claimed as their right, so that they addressed us rather as demandants than as petitioners. Now the state of the poor is altered for the better, not only in their conduct towards the magistrates, but towards the overseers; indeed, several of the overseers state, that had not some change taken place, no pecuniary consideration could have induced them to officiate in the management of the poor. At our justice-room in Southwell we have not issued, I think, within this last twelve-month, two orders for relief upon any parish.

Have you refused many applications?—No; and though burnings have occurred in every surrounding county, in Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, and upon the very borders of Nottinghamshire, we have had no such act committed, within my knowledge, in this county, nor any tumultuous offence, nor any special constables sworn in in either of the districts to which I belong. At the quarter sessions both for the division of Newark and for the liberty of Southwell, in January last, I had the gratification of announcing to the grand juries of both those sessions that there was not a single indictable charge to be preferred before them, either for a misdemeanor or for a felony.

Have their comforts also increased under that system?—Indescribably. The poor in the parish of Thurgatou, of which I am an incumbent, have their houses as well furnished and their persons as well clad, according to their circumstances, as any of their superiors. There is a population in that parish of 330 persons, of whom 45 are agricultural labourers' families.

What is the number of acres in that parish?—It contains 3,000 acres. I hold in my hand a list of the deposits of the Thurgatou labourers in the Southwell Saving Bank, which are 1,036*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

During what period?—They are occasionally drawing out their sums, and lending them elsewhere; therefore I do not imagine the above sum to be more than half the capital which they have actually realized; besides which, nine persons have paid amongst them 70*l.* for the redemption of all the payments due on account of their insurances in sickness, old age, and on death: according to my system of friendly societies, they have secured annuities for their old age, as well as in sickness, together with medical attendance and medicines. In the parish of Southwell, the deposits in our savings bank by the labourers and servants exceed 2,000*l.*

Have you drawn any comparison between the agricultural population existing in those districts and in any other part of the country which appears to be most distressed by a population beyond their present means of employment?—I have. When I was desired to attend this Committee, I conceived that a primary object in administering a remedy for the distress which now pervades the southern counties, was to endeavour to trace it to its origin; to ascertain, if one district be pauperized and another be not, whether there can be discovered any such relative difference in their circumstances as might explain the cause of that vice and wretchedness which has deluged some of the southern counties. The application for my attendance having been conveyed to me by the Duke of Richmond, through the Duke of Portland, I selected Sussex; and certain questions having arisen as to whether the country is or is not over-peopled, the Malthusians maintaining that it was, and the Sadlerians that it was not, while others affirm that there was

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such a deficiency of employment in the southern counties as to render it impossible to uphold the labouring classes, I have framed a comparative statement of several circumstances elucidating those points respectively in Nottinghamshire and in Sussex, which I have now the honour to submit. The proposition which I lay down is that adopted by Mr. Senior, which I think is self-evident, "that the rate of wages depends upon the extent of the fund for the maintenance of labourers, compared with the number of labourers to be maintained;" accordingly, I have taken the documents upon which my reasoning is founded from Parliamentary Reports. The square miles in Nottinghamshire are 837, and the square miles of Sussex are 1,463; then, for the purpose of argument, I multiply the square miles by 640, which will give in Nottinghamshire 535,680 acres, Sussex, 936,320 acres. Moreover, as it has been assumed by Arthur Young and others, that one-seventh is not in cultivation, and consequently produces not the same proportion of labour, I take that one-seventh out of the total quantity, which will of course make against the argument, by reducing the quantity of land, so that there will be to Nottinghamshire 459,155, and for Sussex 802,560; therefore these two quantities give us respectively six-sevenths of the whole acreage, being what I assumed to be the cultivated acres. Then the agricultural families, according to the Population Return in 1821, were, in Nottinghamshire, 13,564, and in Sussex, 21,920; and it has been supposed by Colquhoun, in his work upon the resources of the British empire, that, taking any number of those persons classed as labourers under the Population Returns, seven-twelfths of them may be classed as labourers, and five-twelfths as small yeomanry or tenantry. I shall show what it would be as to both these classes. Now, taking seven-twelfths of the agricultural families, we have for Nottinghamshire 7,974 agricultural labourers' families, and 12,790 for Sussex. I say that in Sussex they seem to have more resources than we have in Nottinghamshire, and that the fund divisible among the labourers is greater in proportion; for those 459,155 square acres divided by 7,974, the above-mentioned number of agricultural families, will give 57 acres to a family in Nottinghamshire, but it will give 62 acres in Sussex; or taking every labourer's family, as 33 acres in Nottinghamshire and 36 acres in Sussex. In Nottinghamshire, if 1*l.* an acre be expended in agricultural labour, then, supposing the whole of the agricultural family to be considered as daily labourers, that will give 33*l.* for every such family in Nottinghamshire, and 36*l.* in Sussex. I then take the whole of the population of the two counties, and I find them thus classed: In the Population Returns for Nottinghamshire, agricultural, 13,964; Sussex, 21,920; Nottinghamshire, trade, 21,832; in Sussex, 15,463; and other families, 3,107 for Nottinghamshire, and other families for Sussex, 6,182. Then we have the total families: the amount of those is, total families for Nottinghamshire, 38,603; and the total families for Sussex, 43,565. The total population in Nottinghamshire is 186,873, and the total population in Sussex is 233,019. Now, the total population being divided by the number of families, gives the number in each family, being four and eight-tenths for Nottinghamshire, and five and three-tenths for Sussex; that is, there is one-half of an individual more in every family in Sussex than in Nottinghamshire. The expenditure for the poor of Nottinghamshire was, according to the last Return, in local taxation, up to Lady-day 1829, 69,137*l.*, which, divided by the number of acres above given, shows that our taxation was 2*s.* 7*d.* an acre; and the sum expended for the poor in Sussex being 235,145*l.*, this amount, divided by the number of acres, gives 5*s.* 0*½d.* per acre; therefore the result is entirely the reverse of that we should have imagined from this process of calculation. But we will try it in another way. I have also taken the calculation at the rate per head. If you take for the cost of the poor in Nottinghamshire the same as before, it is 69,137*l.*, and this, divided by the population as above stated, gives 7*s.* 4*½d.* for each person; and the same process being conducted for Sussex, we have 1*l.* 0*s.* 2*½d.* per head upon the population. Thus they are paying in Sussex for every person (not comprising paupers only, but for every individual) at that rate. Moreover, it has been before shown that the cultivated acres, divided by the total number of families employed in agriculture, give for every such family in Nottinghamshire 33 acres, and in Sussex 36; and that they give, as before shown, for labourers' families 57 acres, and in Sussex 62. If we suppose that the sum of 1*l.* is expended per acre for agricultural labour, which I shall show to be a fair average for Nottinghamshire, then we have for every labourer's family 57*l.* and for every agricultural family 33*l.* in Nottinghamshire, and in Sussex 62*l.* and 36*l.*, which is more than sufficient for the maintenance

Rev.
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11 March 1831.

tenance of the families. But some persons will say that 1*l.* an acre is not an average payment for labourers' wages. Then we will take it at 15*s.* an acre; that will produce for every agricultural family in Nottinghamshire 24*l.* 15*s.*, and for every labourer's family 42*l.* 15*s.*; and in Sussex, 27*l.* for every agricultural family, and 46*l.* 10*s.* for every labourer's family; and I will show, that if the whole of the families were to be maintained at 15*s.* an acre, it is more than the families would cost us as they are maintained in our incorporated workhouse. But it may be said that 15*s.* per acre for labour is too high. Then at 10*s.* the result will be, that in Nottinghamshire we shall have 16*l.* 10*s.* for the agricultural families, and 28*l.* 10*s.* for the labourers; while in Sussex they will have 18*l.* for the agricultural families, and 31*l.* for the labourers; and in every case the solution comes out against Nottinghamshire and in favour of Sussex. Yet pauperism does not predominate in Nottinghamshire, while I fear it does in Sussex, as well as in several other counties. And as it has been shown that every family in Nottinghamshire consists of four and eight-tenths, and in Sussex of five and three-tenths, these suppositions, according as they are taken, will produce respectively for each agricultural family in Nottinghamshire, 33*l.*, 24*l.* 15*s.*, or 16*l.* 10*s.*, or in Sussex, 36*l.*, 27*l.*, or 18*l.*; for each individual of each family in Nottinghamshire, 6*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, 5*l.* 3*s.* 1*d.*, or 3*l.* 8*s.* 9*d.*, or in Sussex, for each member of the family, 6*l.* 15*s.*, 5*l.* 1*s.* 3*d.*, or 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; and 57*l.*, or 42*l.* 15*s.*, or 28*l.* 10*s.* respectively for every labourer's family employed in agriculture in Nottinghamshire, or for every member of such family, 11*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*, 8*l.* 18*s.* 1*d.*, or 5*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*; or in Sussex each family will have 62*l.*, or 46*l.* 10*s.*, or 31*l.*, and each individual of such family will have 11*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*, 8*l.* 15*s.* 5*d.*, or 5*l.* 16*s.* 11*d.*, which is more than the actual cost of maintenance, including rent and apparel, without the addition of money expended out of the poor's rates. Moreover, I make a reserve, for I have left 27,000*l.* a year expended on the highways in Sussex out of the question. For the maintenance and apparel of a man and his wife, and three children under 10 years of age, in the incorporated workhouse at Southwell, with the addition of 1*s.* weekly for rent, amounts to 9*s.* 8*d.* a head, or annually to 25*l.* 2*s.* 8*d.*, being an annual average of 5*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.* for each individual; so that I assume nothing but what I can prove from experience to be the actual cost of maintenance for a pauper's family in the poorhouse, where they are maintained very sufficiently. They have meat twice a week; and from the inquiry I have made, they subsist as well as the poor do out of doors. The dietary is this: every morning, breakfast, milk and bread, or gruel and bread; supper every evening, milk and bread, or gruel and bread, or bread and cheese; dinner, on Sunday and Thursday, beef and potatoes; on Monday and Friday, broth and bread, or milk and bread; on Tuesday, pease soup, with beef-broth and potatoes; on Wednesday, rice-milk; on Saturday, hasty-pudding or dumplings. Now, in computing the subsistence, I divide it into parts; that is, the integral sum for the maintenance or the apparel of an adult is divided into four parts; the integral sum of their maintenance is at present 2*s.* 4*d.* weekly, or 7*d.* for each part; and the integral sum of their apparel is 4*d.*, or 1*d.* for each part: therefore a child takes two parts, that is, 1*s.* 2*d.* weekly for maintenance, and 2*d.* weekly for apparel; a female takes three parts; and a man four parts. Boys from 10 to 15 are treated as females: thus a child takes two parts, that is, 1*s.* 2*d.*, and for its apparel it takes 2*d.*, that is, 1*s.* 4*d.*; a female takes three parts, 1*s.* 9*d.*, and for her apparel, 3*d.*, that is, 1*s.*; a man takes four parts, 2*s.* 4*d.*, and for his apparel, 4*d.*; and we, who have conducted it for a considerable time, know these sums to be sufficient for the maintenance and apparel of a labourer's family; consequently, if only 10*s.* an acre were paid for agricultural cultivation in Sussex, and if such a sum were properly and equitably distributed among the poor, so that each workman might be paid according to his labour, not according to the number of his family, then it would be found that there is sufficient to maintain the whole of the agricultural population. We may proceed, and say, perhaps they have more persons upon a square mile in Sussex than we have. No such thing; we have 223 upon the square mile in Nottinghamshire, whereas they have only 159 in Sussex. Then we relieve 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ in every 100 persons, but they relieve 14 in every 100; and if it be assumed that when they relieve 14, each individual relieved is equal to himself and a child, or is to be doubled, then this number will be raised to 28. Moreover, we have 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of our population in friendly societies, while they have only 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. in Sussex.

[The Witness delivers in the Paper, which is read, and is as follows:]

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.
11 March 1831.

Southwell, 1st March 1831.

BEFORE a remedy can be proposed for the prevention of that pauperism which at present prevails throughout the southern counties of Great Britain, it appears desirable to investigate the causes of this evil, and to determine whether it arises from a deficiency in the funds available for the employment of agricultural human labour, or from a superabundant population among the inferior classes of society, or from mal-administration of the Poor Laws; therefore I shall endeavour to ascertain the amount of the funds expended upon agricultural labour in Nottinghamshire and Sussex, together with other circumstances tending to elucidate this subject.

The proposition assumed is, "that the rate of wages depends upon the extent of the funds for the maintenance of labourers, compared with the number of labourers to be maintained; consequently, if it be shown that the funds annually subsisting in any county are evidently sufficient for the support of the agricultural labourers, the pauperism of the class

may

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT concerning the

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE:

Square miles (see Parliamentary Report, 6th Dec. 1830)	-	837
837 square miles, multiplied by 640, give the square acres	-	536,680
Six-sevenths of square acres, being the number of acres supposed to be under cultivation	-	459,155
Agricultural families, by Population Returns in 1821	-	13,664
Seven-twelfths of agricultural families, being labourers' families	-	7,974
459,155 square acres, divided by 7,974 families of labourers, give for every such family	-	57 acres.
459,155 square acres, divided by 13,664 agricultural families, give for each agricultural family	-	33 acres.

Total Number of Families in Nottinghamshire, by Population Returns in 1821:

Agricultural	-	13,664
Trades	-	21,832
Other Families	-	3,107
Total Families	-	38,603
Total Population	-	186,873

186,873 total population, divided by 38,603, gives the number of each family 4.84 or 4 $\frac{1}{4}$
69,137 $\frac{1}{2}$, being the total expenditure of poor in 1829, by Parliamentary Report,
divided by 536,680, the total number of acres, gives the cost of the poor per
acre - - - - - 129 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

69,137 $\frac{1}{2}$, being the total expenditure of poor in 1829 by Parliamentary Report,
divided by 186,873 total population, gives per head for every person contained in the population - - - - - 369 - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

But it has been before shown that 459,155, being the cultivated acres, divided by 13,664, the total number of families employed in agriculture, give for every such family 33 acres; and further, that 459,155, being the number of cultivated acres, divided by 7,974, being seven-twelfths of the total agricultural families, and being the number of the families of labourers, give for every such family 57 acres. Therefore, supposing the expenditure for agricultural labour to be 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ for every cultivated acre, this will provide, independently of the poor's rate, for every family employed in agriculture, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$; or, for every family so employed, and being the family of a labourer, 57 $\frac{1}{2}$.

If we assume the expenditure to be 15s. per acre for agricultural labour, this will provide for every agricultural family, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15s., or for every labourer's family, 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15s.

If we assume this expenditure to be only 10s. per acre, then this will provide, for each agricultural family, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10s., or for each labourer's family, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10s.

And as it has been shown that every family in Nottinghamshire consists of 4.84, or 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ persons, these suppositions, according as they are taken, will produce respectively, either for each agricultural family, 33 $\frac{1}{2}$, 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15s., or 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10s., or for each member of such family, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17s. 6d., 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., or 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 8s. 9d., and 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}$ l., or 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ 15s., or 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ 10s. respectively for every family of labourers employed in agriculture, or for each member of such family, 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ 17s. 6d., 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., or 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ 18s. 9d., which is more than the actual cost of maintenance, including rent and apparel, without the addition of the money expended

now prevailing therein may be ascribed to the misappropriation of these funds, by an interference between demand and supply in the market for human labour, by an impracticable attempt to unite the results of free and of forced labour, by an adjustment of the labourer's wages, not according to the value of his work, but according to the necessities of his family, and by the payment of wages partly out of the funds for labour, and partly out of the parish rates.

Such are the practices which have prospered the southern counties; while Nottinghamshire and the northern counties, by adopting the anti-pauper system, without any apparent advantages, except such as appertain equally to the southern parts of England, have been enabled to maintain the able-bodied poor and their families in honest independence, by paying the labourer his just hire, and by a strict observance of the anti-pauper system.

J. T. Becker.

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.
11 March 1834.

EXPENDITURE on account of the Poor.

SUSSEX:

Square miles (see Parliamentary Report 6th Dec. 1830) = 1,463

1,463 square miles, multiplied by 640, give the square acres	-	-	-	938,320
Six-sevenths of square acres, being the number of acres supposed to be under cultivation	-	-	-	802,560
Agricultural families, by Population Returns in 1821	-	-	-	21,920
Seven-twelfths of agricultural families being labourers' families	-	-	-	12,790
802,560 square acres, divided by 12,790 families of labourers, give for every such family	-	-	-	62 acres.
802,560 square acres, divided by 21,920 agricultural families, give for each agricultural family	-	-	-	36 acres.

Total number of families in Sussex by Population Returns in 1821:

Agricultural	-	-	-	-	21,920
Trade	-	-	-	-	15,468
Other families	-	-	-	-	6,182
Total Families	-	-	-	-	43,565
Total Population	-	-	-	-	233,019

233,019 total population, divided by 43,565, gives the number of each family	-	5.34 or 5 $\frac{1}{2}$
235,745 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., being the total expenditure of poor in 1823 by Parliamentary Report divided by 938,320, the total number of acres, gives the cost of the poor per acre	-	251 5s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
235,745 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., being the total expenditure of poor in 1829 by Parliamentary Report, divided by 233,019 total population, give per head for every person contained in the population	-	1.011 1l. 0s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

But it has been before shown that 802,560, being the cultivated acres, divided by 21,920, the total number of families employed in agriculture, give for every such family 36 acres. And further, that 802,560, being the number of cultivated acres, divided by 12,790, being seven-twelfths of the total agricultural families, and being the number of the families of labourers, give for every such family 62 acres. Therefore, supposing the expenditure for agricultural labour to be 1 l. for every cultivated acre, this will provide, independently of the poor rate, for every family employed in agriculture, 36 l. or for each family so employed, and being the family of a labourer, 62 l.

If we assume the expenditure to be 15 s. per acre for agricultural labour, this will provide, for every agricultural family, 27 l. or for every labourer's family, 46 l. 10 s.

If we assume this expenditure to be only 10 s. per acre, then this will provide, for each agricultural family, 18 l., or for each labourer's family, 31 l.

And as it has been shown that every family in Sussex consists of 5.34 or 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ persons, these suppositions, according as they are taken, will produce respectively for each agricultural family, either 36 l. 27 l., or 18 l., or for each member of such family, 6 l. 15 s. 5 l. 13 s. or 3 l. 7 s. 6 d., and 62 l., 46 l. 10 s., or 31 l. respectively for every family of labourers employed in agriculture, or for each member of such family 11 l. 13 s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 8 l. 15 s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., or 5 l. 18 s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., which is more than the actual cost of maintenance, including rent and support, without the addition of the money expended out of the poor's rate; for the maintenance

Rev.
John T. Esq. Barker.

Comparative Statement concerning the

11 March 1831.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE—continued.

pendent out of the poor's rate; for the maintenance and apparel of a man with his wife and three children under ten years of age in the incorporated workhouse of Southwell, with the addition of 1s. weekly for rent, amounts weekly to 9s. 8d., or annually to 25l. 2s. 8d., being on annual average of 5l. 0s. 6½d. for each person.

186,873, total population in 1821, divided by 837 square miles, gives the population on each square mile - - - - - 223 persons.

By the Parliamentary Returns in 1815, the number of persons relieved from the poor rates, exclusive of children, was in each 100 of the population - 7½ —

If we suppose the number of children to equal the number of adults, then the number relieved in each 100 of the population will be - - - - - 15 —

The number of persons in friendly societies in each 100 of the population - 11½ —

I was asked by the Duke of Portland, whether I had ascertained the prices of labour; and I stated that I had endeavoured so to do, but that I should be thankful if he would assist me with better information; and his Grace has given me this statement, the expenditure on the Duke of Portland's farm at Clipstone in Nottinghamshire during the year 1830, which is as follows. Here are the different items, amounting to 2,320l. 16s., yielding 1l. 10s. 11½d. per acre. The extent of this farm is 1,500 acres, of which 200 are water-meadows, requiring the attendance of about nine men during the whole of the summer season.

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:]

Paid at Clipstone Park in Labour only, in the year 1830.

In the month of	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	£.	s.	d.
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	131	10	-
	February	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	139	9	-
	March	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	167	-	-
	April	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	170	-	-
	May	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	155	3	-
	June	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	187	6	-
	July	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	303	16	-
	August	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	344	5	-
	September	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	248	-	-
	October	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	166	9	-
	November	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	180	14	-
	December	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	167	4	-
													£.	2,320	16

Then the Duke of Portland procured me, from Mr. Godfrey, who is our clerk of the peace, as well as the agent of his Grace, and who has long held a farm in his own hands, his expenses of occupation. Mr. Godfrey's expenses of occupation are, for the year ending at Lady-day 1829, 411l. 7s. 3½d., for the year ending at Lady-day 1830, 489l. 19s. 9½d.; being 1l. 4s. 2d. per acre in 1829, and 1l. 8s. 10d. per acre in 1830.

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:]

EXPENDITURE IN LABOUR on Mr. Godfrey's Farm at Balderton, for Two Years ending Lady-day 1829 and 1830:

1829:—	£.	s.	d.
Servants wages, including overlooker at 52 l. per annum -	-	83	6 6
Board of hired servants -	-	62	8 -
Labourers wages by day, at 2s. per man -	-	132	16 4½
Butt harvest work, thrashing, and other task work -	-	138	15 5
	£.	411	7 3½

Expenditure on account of the Poor—continued.

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.

11 March 1831.

SOUTHSEX—continued.

tenance and apparel of a man with his wife and three children under ten years of age in the incorporated workhouse at Southwell, with the addition of 1 s. weekly for rent, amounts weekly to 9 s. 8 d., or annually to 25 l. 2 s. 8 d., being an annual average of 5 l. 0 s. 6 ½ d. for each person.

233,019 total population in 1821, divided by 1,463 square miles, gives the population on each square mile - 159 persons

By the Parliamentary Returns for 1815, the number of persons relieved from the poor rates, exclusive of children, was in each 100 of the population - 14 —

If we suppose the number of children to equal the number of adults, then the number relieved in each 100 of the population will be - 28 —

The number of persons in friendly societies in each 100 of the population is 2 ½ —

1830:		£.	s.	d.
Servants wages	- - - - -	86	-	-
Men's board	- - - - -	62	8	-
Labourers wages, by day &c.	- - - - -	128	10	6
Ditto harvest work, thrashing, and other task work	- - - - -	169	1	½
Draining and planting	- - - - -	84	-	2
		£. 489	19	9 ½

The farm consists of 340 acres, of which 80 acres are in permanent grass, and 260 acres of which there is nearly equal quantity of clay and sand land.

The equality of expenditure for daily wages and for task work is rather extraordinary, but the abstract is carefully made.

1st March 1831.

(signed) E. S. Godfrey.

	£.	s.	d.
Expenditure per acre for labour in the year ended Lady-day 1829	-	1	4
Expenditure per acre for labour in the year ended Lady-day 1830	-	1	8

I have applied to another person, whom I consider as one of the first authorities we have in the kingdom, upon the subject of agricultural labour, Mr. John Parkinson, the superintendent for the Duke of Newcastle's estates, and employed extensively as a commissioner of inclosures and as a land valuer. This is his letter:—

Upon examining my farming accounts I find that I have paid the following wages to labourers during the last three years, on an average:

For able men employed in under draining and ditching, &c. - 3 s. per day.

For men employed in thrashing, plashing bedges, boeing, turneps, working hop ground, harvest work, and mowing stubble, and for other work by the grate, and for various works by the day - from 2 s. to 2 s. 6 d. per day according to their ability and industry.

For old and infirm men employed chiefly by the day - from 1 s. 3 d. to 1 s. 6 d.

It has cost me more than 30 s. per acre per annum for all the land I farm; viz. 310 acres here, which is Mr. Lamley Sandle's property, and 310 acres of my own land situate in South Clifton, &c.; but I have furrow-ditched and under-drained a considerable quantity of land, have made roads, and many new fences, and effected various other improvements which are not usually done at the expense of a tenant, and seldom by an occupier of his own estate. I have obtained the following particulars from a friend who has farmed 900 acres (chiefly strong land) in good method and economically. He has employed thirteen 15 able labourers, whose wages on an average for the last three years have been about 2 s. 6 d. per day, but they are industrious. He has had about 20 servants, most of them young, and at low wages, from about 4 l. to 8 l., excepting three or four from 10 l. to 12 l. each. His yearly expenditure for labour, including board of servants and for wages, and board of a carpenter and blacksmith (when employed), has been fully 1,000 l. a year, or 1 l. 4 s. 6 ½ d. per acre. The Duke of Newcastle's farm consists of about 1,000 acres; part of light sandy soil, which is farmed in the four-course system; the remainder, permanent pasture and meadow. The labourers employed are industrious and properly directed, and their wages, especially for the older men employed, are rather

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.

11 March 1831.

higher than the average of the wages I have paid. The land is in a good state of cultivation, and the following sums have been paid for labour thereon, including for blacksmith and wheelwright's work.

			£.	s.	d.
For the year ending Feb. 26th, 1829	-	-	1,184	17	7
For - - - ditto - - - 1830	-	-	1,128	6	4
For - - - ditto - - - 1831	-	-	1,332	9	5
			£.	3,645	13 4
Average yearly - - -	-	-	1,215	4	5
From which deduct, for wages of labourers when employed in loading coals, wood, and fencing, &c.	-	-	115	4	5
			£.	1,100	- -

Or about 22 s. per acre per annum.

The last harvest was much more expensive than that of the preceding years: and all the corn has been thrashed by hand since harvest, instead of by a machine, as heretofore; and wages have not been less than 2 s. by the day during the last winter. It has been usual to reduce the wages of labourers to 1 s. 8d. per day during the winter months, for which reasons the expenses for labour have been so much more than in the two former years. The foregoing are about the average wages paid by farmers generally to labourers in this neighbourhood, but many tenants who farm indifferently do not expend more than 15 s. per acre in labour yearly. I think that, with the exception of uncultivated forest land, the average amount paid for labour in this county may be stated at nearly 20 s. per acre per annum. The woods are extensive, but taking into account the labourers employed therein, and in the parks, pleasure grounds, and gardens, &c. of the principal owners, the expenses for labour therein must exceed 20 s. per acre per annum.

Having occupied for several years about 130 acres of our family property, I draw the conclusion, from my personal knowledge, and experience through other channels; having acted under the property tax, and having assisted in assessing the whole parish of Southwell, after having mapped it with my own hand; yet I can affirm that I have never been able to bring the rate of labour so low as a pound an acre. I have asked two farmers in our parish what they thought the expense of labour, and I found it to be nearly the same. Probably a question may arise with the farmers in the south, if these people pay this expense, can they realise any capital. Mr. Parkinson has stated in his letter, that he has 310 acres of his own; and when I state that I believe him and the two Mr. Milwards to possess property realized by farming, and by the investment of their capital in land, worth more than 100,000*l.*, I verily believe this sum to be below the actual amount of their property. Indeed I know not that a more opulent yeomanry will be found any where than in Nottinghamshire. There is a third Mr. Milward of this family, a landowner in my parish, not one of whom I should say that is worth so little as 30,000*l.*

Can you form any estimate, or have you any grounds for forming an estimate of the relative value of the land in Sussex and in Nottinghamshire?—I would refer to the Returns in 1815; whence it will be found, that the rental of Nottinghamshire was 737,229*l.*, and of Sussex 915,348*l.* I have farmed about 130 acres myself of strong clay, and kept very accurate accounts, and I know that in every year I have had a farmer's profit, except in the year 1822, which happened to be an unproductive year with us. The wages that I pay my head man, who can neither read nor write, who neither buys nor sells so as to become taxable as a bailiff, but acts as a labouring man, are as follows: I pay him 13 s. weekly during winter and summer; and to his boy, about 12 years of age, 5 s. a week regularly; and to another boy, about nine years of age, 2 s. regularly; and occasionally to his wife and his other boy about an average sum of 1 s. more weekly: this amounts to 21 s.; and I allow him a house and garden, and coals and milk for his family, which may be reckoned at 3 s. a week; yet I thought this man's additional work so considerable that I made him a present of two guineas last harvest. Farmers would say, in the south, such wages were ruinous. The average wages of my people working by task work are these: they earn not less than 12 s. in winter, nor more than 14 s.; during the harvest months the labourers have, some 16 s. and some 15 s. a week, besides an occasional allowance of ale. The man I have

have spoken of first receives his regular wages during winter and summer, but he of course receives ale with the rest.

All the calculations upon the relative condition of Nottinghamshire and Sussex would be varied, would they not, first, by the relative qualities of the land, secondly, by the relative proportion between the agricultural and the manufacturing population?—The relative proportion between the manufacturing and agricultural population would not vary the question, because I have taken only the agricultural families.

You have taken the agricultural families, deducting one-seventh from the gross amount of labouring population?—No; I have made a deduction of one-seventh, to set the question against myself; and I have taken out the roads; after which I have ascertained, by the Parliamentary Returns, what are the agricultural families. Then I have endeavoured to discriminate between agricultural families and labourers' families. If there are 12 agricultural families, Mr. Colquhoun assumes that seven-twelfths of those will be subsisted by labouring wages; the other five-twelfths will be yeomen, or landowners, or occupiers.

If the seven-twelfths be the basis of your calculation, if the bulk of the population be a manufacturing population, not employed in agricultural labour, your results would be varied accordingly?—They would not be varied at all, because I venture to state that the given quantity is the agricultural population; then we do divide that sum into two quantities; but this process never interferes with the artificers. The question, if I understand it, is, why does this distress arise? What are the funds for the labourers? If the funds are adequate to their sustentation, the evil must arise from misapplication or misappropriation of that fund or from some mal-administration of the law. We throw the non-productive families as well as the artificers entirely out of our consideration, and reduce the process to a simple question: the labourers families given, so are the acres of land; therefore, if we could find correctly the expense of cultivating each acre the question would be solved. Were they to tell me at Clifton, the estate of the Duke of Portland, that the labourers are in want of parochial relief, I should say, that is impossible; there cannot be distress; because, according to the Population Returns, agricultural families are only 42 in number, and the sum expended in agricultural labour by the Duke of Portland alone is more than sufficient for their support.

The quality of land in the two counties would vary your result?—The quality of land might vary it; but still I put that question to Mr. J. Parkinson, who thought it a fair parallel; he said, "perhaps, take it altogether, Nottinghamshire may be a little better." I have requested the Duke of Portland, when he sent for his agent, to endeavour to correct any error; but even if we suppose the relative expenditure for labour not to be equal, and that in Sussex they do not spend 1*l.* an acre, though we have occasionally spent 3*o.* *s.* still they must spend at least 15*s.*, or even if they spend 1*o.* *s.* an acre this evil ought not to exist.

You are aware that a great part of Sussex is in downs?—Yes; and a very considerable proportion of Nottinghamshire is in forest, and incapable of cultivation; a great deal of land is light, blowing red sand, unproductive, thrown back into sheepwalks, because it cannot otherwise be profitably cultivated.

Much would depend upon the relative proportion of that uncultivated land, if you take the square acre?—Yes; but that will apply to any district. Something like a principle might be grounded upon that observation if this anti-pauper system were peculiar to Nottinghamshire; I would say that it might be considered as peculiar; but the Rev. Mr. Whatley writes to me thus: "Thank you for your anti-pauper system; we have reduced our poor's rates from 12 *s.* to 2 *s.* in the pound." And I have a letter from Mr. Baker, in Gloucestershire, who resides in a pauperized district of that county, where this system has produced the same effect. The late high sheriff for Essex called and visited Southwell, to inspect our establishments and to judge for himself; he then decided, upon personal observation, and said, "this must be the system to save Essex." He returned to Essex, and established a union of parishes upon our system. He has there associated with very good and intelligent men; one, his uncle, Mr. William Smith, of Norwich; the other, the Rev. John Oldham, who has co-operated with him in carrying these plans into execution. They have deviated in only one instance, which was connecting offices of secretary and governor; and he has reduced the rates already in about a year from 4*l.* to 2*l.* Instead of paying the labourers partly out of rate and partly by wages, he pays no able-bodied labourers out of the

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rates. The parish were so much against him, that out of twenty-three constituting the hundred, only ten would unite; but now they are all ready to join if a union were practicable. He has effected all this in the face of the poor, who threatened to pull down his house, not on this account, but in consequence of the outrages pervading the country. He authorizes me to say, that as far as his experience extends, the system is complete. I have another letter from Mr. Baker, of Uley, in Gloucestershire, which was pauperized; he says this,

" Sir,

" MAY I hope that you will kindly excuse the liberty I take in thus troubling you, not having the pleasure of being known to you.

" Though not residing in it, I am connected with the parish of Uley, in the manufacturing part of this county. Trade has decayed, and the poor rates had increased, and were continuing to increase to a most alarming extent. The poor were idle and insolent, and all things were getting from bad to worse, notwithstanding the exertions of a very active and intelligent select vestry. Emigration, different modes of employment, and other things were proposed and rejected. I had heard of your anti-pauper system, and of other works on the same subject by Mr. Bosworth, Capt. Nicholl, and others. I read them, and submitted the whole to the consideration of the parish. The plan was adopted some months ago, and has been attended with success far beyond the utmost which I had dared to hope for. Should you think it worth your attention I shall be happy to lay before you a short statement of what has been done, and of the effect which has been produced; but most probably you have seen so many such that you have little or nothing to learn, and therefore that you will not wish for it.

" One part of the effect which we see is, I must confess, beyond my comprehension. I was much afraid that withdrawing parish relief from persons who had been during their whole lives used to work in their houses, or at least under cover, and thus forced to adopt other employments, would at first be an exceeding great hardship upon them, and that it would be injurious to the health of many of them. I thought also that they would at first not know how to obtain work for themselves; I therefore took much pains to get work for many of them during the harvest, and I was fortunate in finding it for them at a distance from the parish. I had no hope but that when this was over, and the men had returned home, they would again have applied for parish pay; I was afraid of pressing the thing too hard at first; and having decreased our pay about 12*s.* per week during the summer, we were all well satisfied with it as a beginning, and hoped to do more next year; but to my astonishment, although the harvest is over, and the men have long been returned, we have no more applications for relief than we had while it continued. When we found them work we took off their pay; and now that the work is over they do not ask us to put it on again. It seems, therefore, almost as if we had done no good by finding work for them; we mean, however, to continue it as far as we can through the winter. How they find it for themselves I cannot conceive; but I have heard from different persons who reside in the parish, and who from the difference in their stations and habits I have every reason to believe had never conversed together on the subject, such accounts of the state of the poor as give me the strongest ground for hoping that since the establishment of your system crime is rapidly decreasing, and that good order, industry, and all that can make a poor man respectable will increase and be firmly established. I never ventured to hope that such an effect as we see could have been produced in so very short a time. Should it continue, as I firmly believe it will, we shall have reason to be most truly grateful to you and to the other gentlemen, who have, by establishing the system and publishing an account of it, admitted us to so great a benefit.

" And this brings me back to the cause of my thus troubling you. The anti-pauper system is out of print; there is not, as I believe, a single copy of it for sale in London; I have been inquiring for it for several months, as I wish to add it to a collection of pamphlets on the same subject, and to lend it to several of my friends; I have not been able to get any of them, excepting one which I have borrowed and must return. I hear from every one, that a new edition is in the press; but when it will come out no one knows. If you would be good enough to inform me when it will come out, and what bookseller in London will publish it, so that I may get

get it as soon as possible, you would greatly oblige me. I wish much that I could enable some of my friends to read it before the next quarter sessions, but that I fear is impossible.

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"P. S.—Out of a population of about 3,000 persons, with the exception of a few orphan children, there are only five in the Uley workhouse. Fifteen rates of 20 d. in the pound, assessed at nearly the full value of the land, did not quite pay the poor, &c. last year."

I have here a Synopsis of results of certain queries proposed to the overseers of the poor of several parishes within the hundred of Redhornstoke, in the county of Bedford. Those are agricultural parishes; therefore this statement will bring the matter nearly to an issue. I will not take each parish individually, but the whole hundred. The questions proposed are 14 in number. I will state how circumstances are in Redhornstoke, and how they stand in Southwell, and will specify the relative proportions of Southwell, taking, first, the population as unity, and afterwards taking the number of acres as unity. What is the number of acres within your hundred? 38,037; at Southwell we have 4,500. The population of Redhornstoke hundred is 13,511; the population of Southwell 3,051. The first comment I shall make is, that in Redhornstoke they have three acres to a man, and we have only one and a half for a man. What are the number of rate-payers? 982 with them, and 622 with us; we have more, because we rate all the poor. What is the number of able-bodied labourers? 2,177 in this hundred; 217 in Southwell. What proportion of these able-bodied labourers receive assistance from the parochial funds? 640 for Redhornstoke; not a man in Southwell. What is the number of persons composing their families, and with them dependent, either wholly or partially, on the parochial funds for support? In Redhornstoke, 3,786; in Southwell only 16 children, who during the winter months are schooled and fed in the day-time at the workhouse, where they are taught to read, knit and sew, and they return home to their families at night. The next question is, What is the rate of relief granted to able-bodied pauper labourers? They give a graduated weekly allowance to a single man, and a man with his wife, and with one and two and three and four and five children; we know of no such doctrine; we give no such relief. What sum has been expended in the maintenance of the poor during the last three years? In the hundred, 50,761 l.; 15,371 l. with us. I will afterwards come to the relative proportions. What proportion of that expenditure has been incurred for the support of able-bodied labourers in the hundred? 13,674 l. What amount for Southwell? None. Therefore I think the natural conclusion must be, that this sum must be paid for labour in some shape or other. What proportion of the expenditure has been incurred in support of families? 9,429 l. in the hundred has been incurred; and only 30 l. in Southwell, which is for the maintenance of the children. Is there a poorhouse in the parish? Yes; and we have a poorhouse. What proportion of the labourers now belonging to the parish would be sufficient to perform all the labour necessary to be habitually performed, including repair of road, &c.? They say, 1,496; whereas the Southwell labourers would be insufficient, unless assisted by artificers and labourers from other parts during harvest months. The labourers employed at Southwell do not necessarily belong to the parish; we leave the market of labour quite free and open for the poor. What number can be spared? They say, 681; we say, not one. The annual increase of male population, most of whom are labourers, they say, is 111; we say, 19. The number of acres to each able-bodied labourer with them is 18½; with us, 21. So that the difference, though not very great, is rather in favour of Southwell. The average annual amount of poor's rates for 10 years, up to Lady-day 1827, with them was 15,714 l., and with us, 726 l. For five years, the period to which I have before spoken, the annual amount of poor's rate per acre with them is 7s. 10d., and with us is 3s. 2½d.

[The Witness delivers in the Synopsis, which is read, and is as follows:]

A SYNOPSIS of the RESULTS of certain QUERIES proposed to the Overseers of the Poor

QUESTIONS.	Arundel.	Crusfield.	Elvess.	Flitch.	Hampton Compton.	Kempston.	Lidlington.	Maiden.	Northbrook.
1. What is the number of acres within the parish of _____?	1,628	3,500	1,322	1,700	3,380	5,460	2,530	2,574	1,430
2. What is the amount of its population?	1,719	1,872	644	537	759	1,615	811	1,238	425
3. What is the number of rate-payers?	108	100	40	40	43	86	59	108	40
4. What is the number for able-bodied labourers, accounting two boys to one man?	136	139	103	88	155	270	151	130	55
5. What proportion of those able-bodied labourers receive assistance from the parochial funds?	38	64	24	40	51	90	46	46	23
6. What is the number of persons composing their families, and with them dependent, either wholly or partially, on the parochial funds for support?	290	331	151	160	170	550	263	108	140
7. What is the rate of relief granted to able-bodied proper labourers:	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Single man?	4 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	3 6	4 -	3 6
Man and wife, without children?	5 -	5 -	5 -	4 -	5 6	5 -	3 6	4 -	5 6
Idiot, with one child?	6 -	6 -	6 6	5 6	6 -	6 -	6 -	5 6	6 -
Idiot, with two children	8 -	7 -	7 6	7 6	7 6	7 -	8 -	8 -	7 -
Idiot, with three children?	10 -	8 6	-	9 -	8 6	8 6	9 -	8 -	9 -
Idiot, with four children?	12 -	9 -	-	11 -	9 6	10 -	10 6	9 -	-
Idiot, with five children?	14 -	-	-	13 -	11 -	11 -	12 6	-	-
8. What system is adopted with respect to the employment of able-bodied labourers?	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9. What sum has been expended in the maintenance of the poor during the last three years?	3,047	4,050	2,123	2,357	3,497	7,020	3,895	2,350	1,546
10. What proportion of that expenditure has been incurred for the support of able-bodied labourers?	465	870	1,148	1,023	1,330	1,329	768	300	690
11. What proportion of that expenditure has been incurred for the support of their families?	310	840	138	1,167	318	1,500	462	-	135
N.B.—This Return includes all the allowances made to the paupers of the whole parish.									
12. Is there a poorhouse in the parish?	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes
13. What proportion of the labourers now belonging to the parish would be sufficient to perform all the labour necessary to be habitually performed, including repair of roads, &c.?	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
14. What number can be spared?	118	104	78	73	125	166	117	110	58
Annual Increase of Male Population, most of whom are labourers	18	71	6	3	71	13	41	151	21
Number of Acres to each able-bodied labourer	-	27	14½	20½	22	14	16½	22	22½
Average Annual Amount of Poor's Rates for ten years up to Lady-day 1827	£. 1,381	£. 1,323	£. 625	£. 376	£. 1,160	£. 2,347	£. 1,178	£. 746	£. 566
Annual Amount of Poor's Rates per Acre	-	s. d. 7 7	s. d. 8 2	s. d. 7 3	s. d. 7 8	s. d. 9 1	s. d. 9 3	s. d. 5 9	s. d. 7 6

of the several Parishes within the Hundred of *Redbarnstoke*, in the County of *Belford*.

Manors, &c.	Whitby.	Whitby.	Whitby.	Whitby.	The Hundred at large.	Southwell, Nottinghamshire.	Proportion of Southwell to the Hundred of Redbarnstoke, assuming this Hundred as 10000.	Proportion, according to the Amount of Population as Unity.	Proportion, according to the Number of Acres as Unity.
4,200	5,448	1,060	3,027	3,468	38,037	4,500	.1183	.5240	1.0000
1,060	956	370	780	1,161	12,512	2,051	.1257	1.0000	1.0000
60	90	30	30	50	980	612	.6334	2.8000	5.3458
500	123	63	153	225	5,177	217	.0996	.4411	.8440
70	32	20	25	80	646				
700	300	51	130	440	3,766	{ Sixteen children maintained in the workhouse in the winter months.			
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.			
3 6	3 6	3 6	4 -	3 6	3 6	4 6			
4 -	4 -	4 -	4 6	4 -	3 6	4 6			
5 -	5 -	5 -	5 -	5 -	5 6	5 6			
6 -	6 -	6 -	6 -	6 -	6 -	6 -			
7 -	7 -	7 -	7 -	7 -	7 -	7 -			
8 -	8 -	8 -	8 -	8 -	8 -	8 -			
9 -	9 -	9 -	9 -	9 -	9 -	9 -			
10 -	10 -	10 -	10 -	10 -	10 -	10 -			
11 -	11 -	11 -	11 -	11 -	11 -	11 -			
repairing the parish roads						{ Eightmen, principally aged persons employed upon highways.			
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.			
6,412	3,120	890	2,781	6,010	50,761	1,737	.0342	.1515	.5860
1000	381	-	710	1,350	13,674	none.			
300	278	-	450	1,037	9,489	30	.0032	.0142	.0070
1000	20	20	100	100	{ In 12 out of 14 parishes - }	yes.			
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	{ The Southwell labourers would be insufficient unless assisted by artificers and labourers from other parts during the harvest.			
174	82	53	118	121	1,406	none.			
85	41	10	40	104	681				
10 1/2	9	3	2 1/2	13 1/2	111	No. 10	.1711		
17 1/2	18	17	19	15 1/2	13 1/2	21	1.1000		
£	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	{ (5 years *) £. 716 }	.0452	.3046	.0613
1000	940	279	800	1,048	15,714				
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.			
8 4	5 3	5 3	11 2	7 10	3 2 1/2	4005			

* The Southwell rates include county rates, the constables' rates, and churchwardens' expenses.

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Now the quantities of the hundred and the quantities of Southwell not being the same, in order to institute a strict comparison, it becomes necessary to adopt some common calculator. I have taken unity for this purpose; but to avoid decimal fractions, I will take it at 10,000; then each figure may be regarded as an integer. Supposing the population of each district to be 10,000, when they had 10,000 rate-payers we should have 2,300. Counting two boys for one man, we should have 4,412 able-bodied labourers when they had 10,000; and when they were expending 10,000*l.* upon the population, we should expend only 142*l.*; and when they were paying 13,674*l.* in allowances to able-bodied labourers, we should not spend anything. But if it be said that we should take the calculation upon the acre, than it will stand thus: When they have 10,000 labourers, we should have 19,000, because our acres are fewer; so that we should have nearly two to one upon the acre. Their number of rate-payers would be 10,000; our number of rate-payers would be 53,458. And when they pay 10,000*l.* to labourers' families, we pay 270*l.* The rental of this hundred under the Property-tax Act was 51,695*l.*; the rental of the parish of Southwell, including houses, being 10,464*l.*, gives about 3*l.* 8*s.* 6*d.* a year per acre. The state in which we relatively stand I conceive to be this: In 1795, when a part of the population was withdrawn for the army and navy, that necessarily created a temporary void, which was to be filled up, either by increasing the population, or by improving the industry of the people. In Berkshire they met at Speenhamland, and they determined to keep down the rate of wages, and to dole out a certain portion of wages parochially to the poor; so that when the war ceased, the people might again return to their former occupations, and circumstances might resume their original state. On the contrary, we said to the labourers, we will convert your day labour into task work, and we will improve your industry and your fortunes, by enabling you, if you are diligent, to enjoy the benefit which may be realized by the acquirement of additional capital. We will suppose that the number of labourers was 600. We say to the labourers, increase your industry, and we will give you task work, so that you can work seven days in the week. Then we have 600 performing the work of 700; the 100 withdrawn creates no inconvenience, for the 600 who remain are benefited by the opportunity of increasing their capital; and this arrangement continues even to the present day. Our men are constantly working at task work seven days in summer; also the labourers, in several employments, rise at five, and withdraw from their labour at seven. The consequence has been, that our labourers have furnished their houses, and invested their little money in the savings banks, and purchased out their assurances in our friendly society. Above 700*l.* have been paid for redemption, for the purpose of enabling the members to stand quite independent, in sickness, old age, and so as to defray the expenses that attach on death. They became quite a different class of people to that of the southern counties, where their employers said, we will fill up this void created by the war; therefore they procured 100 more men; so that while we were performing our work with 600, they were employing 700. But that was not the extent of the evil: they very soon found that servile labour can never compete with free labour; a slave never can equal a free man. So they found that more such labourers were required to do the work of one man, as it is stated in the Parliamentary Report on Wages. Even when our county was to a certain degree pauperized by throwing upon us the artificers, though we never got into a regular system of paying part labour and part rates, yet when we were obliged to take a number of men thrown out of employment by the reduced prices in the manufactures of our county, we found that four pauperized men did not perform the work of one independent labourer. In fact, I asked my head man and our overseer, as well as the surveyor of the turnpike roads, what number of such men they estimated as equal to one of our freemen; to which they severally replied, that they thought the proportion to be as four to one; but I will take it as only two to one. Then, in the southern counties their 700 labourers increased to 1,400, which increase was effected by a perpetually progressive ratio of the population; so that when they wished to stem the torrent, they found they could not do it. The war ceased: the poor came back to their shodes; our 600 people fell back upon their capital; they had their resources, together with their former opportunities of employment; whereas the people who came back into the southern counties were all supernumeraries. When a man returns to us, we inquire, Where is your capital; first, your industry? The probable answer is, I have no employment. Then you have the capital which you have accumulated,

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or you can obtain assistance from the capital of others; you have credit? A diligent and frugal labourer with us possesses capital of three denominations; but in the south they have no capital. When a man is refused relief in a pauperized district, he asks, Am I to starve? I could pauperize Southwell in a very short time, by pursuing the course adopted in some districts. We have 217 able-bodied labourers at Southwell. Now, supposing we were to reduce their weekly wages from 12s., the average rate which they now receive, to 8s. a week, or from 13s. a week to 9s., and we were to take 4s. a week from the wages of each man, that being 101 8s. a year, we should pay 2,256l. 16s. additional poor's rates; then we should cry out that we were aggrieved with poor's rates. I contend that such out-payments are not poor's rates, according to the legitimate interpretation of the Act of the 43d of Elizabeth. We should defraud the labourer of his hire, and impose an illegal tax upon the wages of the industrious labourer or the unmarried man, for the support of the idle man, or of the man that is oppressed with a family.

Are you not in this comparison assuming that there is a superabundant population in those districts?—Unless it can be shown upon paper that the wages which are expended in agricultural labour, or which ought to be so expended, are insufficient for the support of the agricultural families, I may contend that there does not exist a superabundant population; and in the very statement which I have already submitted, the argument is against Nottinghamshire; for there is in Nottinghamshire a more numerous population on every square mile than in Sussex; therefore, if they are pauperized in Sussex, we ought to be doubly so in Nottinghamshire. But we escape by employing the labourers without any restriction, and by keeping the market quite free and open. In summer we employ labourers from other parts, and some of the Irishmen to assist during the harvest season.

In the last statement you have made, you referred to persons returned; did you mean to say that the persons who returned were supernumeraries, and there was no labour for them. Will you explain that?—They were supernumeraries to a certain extent, by withdrawing a certain portion of employment from the pre-existing labourers. But we found, as it is stated in Mr. Baker's letter, that they progressively devised means of employment, which were perhaps beyond our discovery, in many cases beyond our comprehension. However, it must be recollected, that during the long period of war the farmers had been induced, by the advanced prices of agricultural produce, to invest more capital in the cultivation of the soil than had been expended before the war commenced; which may be adduced as one of the principal causes which prevented the return of such labourers from being severely felt. Many of the discharged men, we may add, were entitled to public pensions. If the funds expended on agricultural labour be insufficient, the next question is, whether land occupiers expend as much as they ought, or as the land requires, in agricultural cultivation, to yield its full produce, and at the same time a sufficient remuneration for the capital employed? There was the same place for our labourers as there had been before the war; but, as I have stated, there had been a progression in the employment applied towards agriculture during the war; consequently there is a much larger capital expended now than in 1795. When the system of paying wages out of the rates originated in the southern counties, Mr. J. Parkinson occupied a strong clay land, which he underdrained, by running a tile drain down every furrow. Now, the mere operation of such a system, if carried on generally, would produce an infinity of employment, as the whole process supplies labour for the poor, from the making of the tile to the deposit of it in the drain. The system of draining was very little practised in 1795. The first hook on the subject within my recollection was Mr. Elkington's, published about that time by the Board of Agriculture. The farm of the Duke of Portland, to which I have referred, is almost a creation. So that upon the whole I conclude that the fund for agricultural labour, during the period of war, was increased, in well-cultivated districts, more than the supply demanded by the returning population.

Do you think that equally applicable to Sussex as to Nottinghamshire?—I am not sufficiently acquainted with Sussex to return a satisfactory answer. This inquiry would involve two or three questions. One is, are the Sussex farmers capitalists? In Nottinghamshire we have scarcely a lease; a perfect confidence between landlord and tenant; the landlords have been the last to raise their rents and the first to reduce their rents; and few would incur the expense of a lease

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if tendered to them. Mr. J. Parkinson is laying out 30*s.* an acre on his landlord's estate.

Then your comparison of the counties of Nottingham and Sussex is not formed on any knowledge of the circumstances of the latter county?—It is founded on the documentary evidence to be found in the Parliamentary Returns, as well as on the best information that I could collect. Mr. Parkinson was acquainted with Sussex; and I have conferred with others.

In some of the numerical statements, you have gives a statement of the average number of persons in a family in Nottinghamshire and in Sussex, and it appears that the number of persons in a family in Sussex is one-tenth greater than in Nottinghamshire, notwithstanding which the condition of the poor in Nottinghamshire is better than in Sussex; to what do you attribute that?—I attribute this circumstance in some measure to the greater degree of inclination of persons in Nottinghamshire to invest capital in buildings; they have building societies among themselves. Those who want an investment for their money, in consequence of the recent limitations prohibiting savings banks from receiving more than 30*l.* a year, or 150*l.* in the whole, from each individual depositor, have invested a part of their money in those building societies. In the parish of Thurgaton, of which I am the incumbent, not only pauperism but poverty appears to have been nearly extinguished. The average weekly sum paid out of the poor's rate for the maintenance of the poor during the last year was only 7*s.* 6*d.*

Do not you think that in Nottinghamshire the condition of the poor has been materially improved by the circumstance of so many resident proprietors of high rank and considerable opulence, some of whom, the Duke of Portland for instance, have made extensive improvements, and thereby afforded labour for the poor?—There cannot be a more considerate or beneficent person on behalf of the poor, or a kinder or more liberal landlord upon the face of the earth, than the Duke of Portland. His expenditure in labour is very considerable. But in recommending the anti-pauper system for general adoption, I should very much err were I not to found my deductions upon the general employment provided by the agricultural occupiers of the county. For instance, in Southwell we have not a single person of any very great property, holding land in his own occupation: the labour in this parish stands upon the general principle of regular employment. At Thurgaton, there the people who so expend their money in labour are persons who have acquired their property in the ordinary course of husbandry, without any reference to the influence of great persons. In 49 united parishes of which I have a list, as well as a statement of their poor rates, they are cultivated succeeding to the regular husbandry of the country; therefore I ascribe it to the confidence subsisting between landlord and tenant, and to the consequent expenditure of capital, in expectation of a remunerating return.

It appears that the improved condition of the labourer is almost co-extensive with the northern, that is to say, the manufacturing districts; and that that which exists in Nottinghamshire applies in a great measure to Lincolnshire, Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, and even Lancashire, in which counties agricultural labour is well paid?—This appears to be nearly the case.

May not their improved condition have arisen in some measure from the connection of manufactories with those counties?—I have known Nottinghamshire to a considerable extent pauperized. In the year 1812 there were at that time parishes in which the rental was scarcely equal to the expenditure of the poor, among which was one parish belonging to the Duke of Portland. Besides which, I have known freeholders come to me, and declare that the produce of their land was not equal to the payment of their rates; but this arose from a stagnation in our manufacturing concerns.

Your attention has been of course directed to friendly societies, and every plan for the benefit of the poor?—I have published systems for several of them.

And your attention has been turned to the advantages and disadvantages likely to arise from emigration?—I have been a party in affording the means of emigration. In 1819, when our county was again to a certain extent pauperized, two plans were adopted; one was emigration, which we denominated colonization; and the other was a subscription for relief, to be expended in some public work, unconnected with private profit. The principal persons in our county subscribed 500*l.* each, the leading country gentlemen; about 100 others, 50*l.*; and others, 25*l.*; and, as well as I can recollect, each of the subscriptions amounted to about 5,000*l.* The subscription for labour became the popular subscription with the

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lower orders. It was determined to discover some work; and they cleaned out a river near Nottingham, which kept the people employed till the tide of affairs turned in their favour. The colonization became unpopular; indeed, they called it transportation. At a meeting it was arranged that I should undertake the colonization of those parties. I, in conjunction with Mr. Godfrey, the clerk of the peace, obtained lists of colonists. However, some withdrew their names and their assent. We proposed to the parishes, that if they would give a small sum, about 5*l*., we would provide the rest; but very few of the parishes were disposed to such contribution, and very few of the people were inclined to leave this country. We sent to Birmingham for useful implements of various descriptions; we collected garden seeds; we had a little plan drawn for a town, and emigrated about 200 of those persons. In order that they might be perfectly satisfied, we sent them down in coaches to Liverpool, and two vessels provided by Government conveyed them to Algoa Bay in Africa. But the colony was unfortunate in one respect; the crops in that country are occasionally subject to the rust, which had not occurred for some years, but visited the crops during the two successive years after the landing of our party, so that the colony was subjected to some difficulty; but since that time the accounts which have reached me are exceedingly gratifying and very satisfactory. We had procured a medical man to embark with the colonists, thinking that he was the best superintendent, as he could act in the several capacities of friend, physician, and moral instructor. Unfortunately, however, the colony lost him by death soon after his landing. If the same boon was offered now to persons in districts, I have no doubt, from the number of letters which I have received, that we should have applications sufficient to consume the whole of the sum subscribed; but we were obliged to return about 50 per cent., being unable to find persons who were willing to be, what they called, transported.

Does it not appear that a benevolent provision has been made for the protection and sustenance of the whole animal creation?—Undoubtedly it does.

Is it not therefore reasonable to suppose that the same benevolence provides equally for the rational as it does for the irrational part of the creation?—It undoubtedly does, though the means of acquiring this provision are not always organically imparted to the human as to the brute creation.

Does it not therefore follow, that the distresses and privations to which mankind are subject are not unavoidable evils, but are mostly attributable to their own mismanagement and impolicy?—I conceive this very frequently to be the case. Indeed I have always affirmed that I never should consent to admit that the country was absolutely over-peopled until I saw agriculture progressively advancing towards horticulture, according to the quality and capability of the soil.

Might not the surface of the earth by improved cultivation be made more productive to an almost indefinite extent?—I know instances which I could cite of agriculture approximating nearly to horticulture. One instance occurs in the estates of Admiral Sotheron, in the vicinity of Howden, in Yorkshire. The farmers have no fallow there; they crop the land alternately with potatoes and wheat, or with flax and wheat; in fact, it approaches so nearly to horticulture, that I might almost call it so. I conceive that in some parts of our land there is a progressive approach to horticulture: the land is better cleaned; the fences are kept in better order; the bountiful gifts of the Deity are more effectually and more abundantly elicited for the benefit and support of mankind.

Does it not hence appear to be our duty, instead of sending our most industrious labourers abroad, to provide for them as far as can be by employment and sustenance at home?—I conceive that the strength of every country must depend upon the mental and physical abilities of its inhabitants, including both its peasantry and its artificers. Indeed, the whole tendency of my arguments has been to show, that in the southern counties, if the effort were made, the provision for the poor might be rendered sufficient; but at the same time I would qualify these observations by saying, that when different opinions are entertained upon the same subject, and when two people of powerful minds attain to different conclusions, I can see no objection to permitting colonization to be proposed to those who are voluntarily disposed to adopt it.

Are we hence justified in holding out inducements and premiums to men to tear asunder all the ties of relationship and home, by forsaking their native country, where they possibly might be employed in cultivating those numerous extensive wastes which are at our own doors?—I have such an abhorrence of exercising any influence over the human mind on such occasion, that in our

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colonization we scrupulously abstained from any interference of the kind. But with regard to colonization, in the parish of Thurgaton a settled inhabitant voluntarily emigrated to Canada, whence he recently returned, and stated that he was well settled there, and wished for money to take out his family. Under those circumstances, the parish advanced money towards colonizing two families; against which I can discern no valid objection, for I would treat the poor as we do our own children. If, on a full and fair exposition of the whole circumstance, they preferred a foreign country to their own parish, I would impose no interdiction upon them. Many of our laws are, I think, oppressive towards the poor; and I would deal with them as I would with the strenuous advocate for emigration, who is now going to a distant country; I would leave the determination entirely to their own option.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday next, Twelve o'clock.

Die Luna, 14^a Martii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. John Thomas Becker is called in, and further Examined, as follows:

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CAN it be humane or politic to entail upon the nation a heavy expense, in sending some of our best agricultural labourers abroad, as long as we have land at home which is capable of being improved and made more productive?—In regard to this as well as a former question, I will state to your Lordships the principle upon which I acted with reference to colonization, very shortly, because it is here given by Mr. Nolan, in his speech upon the amendment of the Poor Laws. "If such a plan is ever taken up, I would found it upon two essentially governing principles: first, that it be not made the instrument of fraudulent or involuntary eviction, even of the poorest or most insignificant individual, from his native country; ample precaution should be taken, that all who avail themselves of the measure should do so solely from the impulse of voluntary choice. The other would be, that those places which are pressed by the inconvenience should raise, from their local funds, the necessary means for enabling the poor to emigrate. This would form the most effectual guard against injudiciously pushing the practice beyond the evils which the measure is designed to remedy. No parish or place would incur the expense unless compelled to it by an injurious superabundance of population; and no inhabitant would be aided to remove, unless when the inconvenience of over-numbers was practically felt." If the present Act respecting emigration passes in its present extent, it does not apply exclusively to agricultural labourers, but to the whole of the working classes. Such is the light in which I have viewed the question, because the agriculturalists and artificers are necessarily mixed up together in society. Great questions, it is well known, have arisen respecting inadequate and superabundant population. I will state to your Lordships practical facts, which occurred within my own knowledge in the county of Nottingham, during the year 1812. There was at that time a suspension of the manufacturing profits, and a difference of opinions between the masters and the workmen, principally arising from the masters having introduced means of their executing their work by a more summary process, so that they were enabled to fabricate pieces which they could cut up into several stockings. At one time these disagreements proceeded to such a height, and to such tumultuous conduct on the part of the workmen, that vast numbers of them

were

were thrown out of employ, and whole districts became extensively pauperized by a mass of artificers thrown upon the poor rates. The opinion of several on this occasion was, that a superabundant population existed, and that the case scarcely admitted of remedy. The superabundance was apparently so excessive, that several parishes declared that the expenditure for the poor was equal to their income; and an application was made to the county magistrates for a rate upon other hundreds, in aid of the parishes so oppressed with poor. The magistrates were almost inclined to enter upon the question; but some of the parties having consulted counsel for the purpose of resisting this application, it appeared that the beds must be sold from under the poor before a rate in aid could be legally granted. This necessarily threw the poor and the proprietors of estates upon the consideration of other resources. A sum was collected by voluntary subscription, amounting to about 6,000*l.*; and a committee was appointed from different parts, of whom I happened to be one, to meet from time to time in the centre of the distressed districts, so as to relieve these artificers. The comparative sufferings of the people I conceive was infinitely greater on this occasion than in the agricultural districts, because, in the agricultural districts, many of these paupers have not known affluence or happiness; but among the artificers, many were reduced from earning 1*l.* or 2*l.* a week to a state of total destitution. It was then determined to employ this subscription solely in manual labour, and the framework-knitters were employed at small wages, I think about 10*d.* a day; the consequence was, that this threw the artificers upon the means of devising self-support; and what was the consequence? They invented, among other means, the lace machinery; and I saw that population, which had been a little while before declared to be superabundant, rise up into such progressive improvement, that the market of human labour was not sufficient for the supply; so that the upper servants in gentlemen's families were tempted, in several instances, to withdraw not only their persons, but the capital that they had accumulated, for the purpose of dedicating both their persons and their property towards the advancement of these manufactures: in a word, lace-making proceeded at such an incredible rate, that single families of artificers were earning at the rate of ten guineas a week: this they effected by the father and his son working their machines both night and day; they took it in turns, and consequently they were enabled to work permanently. So valuable were the machines fabricated by the ingenuity of those men (for the inventions were all, or nearly all, originated by working men), some of those lace machines were sold for more than 1,000*l.* apiece; even common persons, for filing the parts of those machines, were men hired at the rate of one guinea or more per week. Now, having witnessed those circumstances, they render me very scrupulous and very reluctant before I can pronounce that this country is over-peopled. Circumstances of nearly the same kind occurred in 1819; there was a dispute between the workmen and the manufacturers: this was the time when colonization was proposed, and it was tendered to the people, at least as far as I was concerned, not from any view to tempt them from their homes, but to prove that as the Peers and gentlemen had then made a subscription of 5,000*l.* for employment, and as many were of opinion that colonization might be advantageous, this opportunity should also be presented to the working classes: but in this colonization we communicated with the people individually; the whole nature and circumstances of the transaction were distinctly explained to them; therefore, far from any individuals being induced to depart from their home, it was not till the circumstances were fully stated to them, and until they expressed a wish to depart from their home, that they were colonized. But if it had then been assumed that our population had been superabundant, your Lordships, I think, will admit, that, in an extensive colonization, many artificers must have been removed, and among those, very ingenious artificers. The consequence of our project was, that they who did not approve colonizing at Algoa Bay, which was our settlement, but who still wished to leave their home, went over to France, where they established our own manufactures, and dedicated their ingenuity to a competition against their native country. One of your Lordships has alluded to the ways of Providence; and I would ask, whether manfully struggling with difficulties against difficulties, does not improve the moral and physical abilities of rich and poor, and enable us to overcome them? I would ask, whether it does not animate us to devise means which were beyond our former knowledge, and almost beyond our calculation? and whether this has not been the case in Nottinghamshire?

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But then distress has forced the workmen upon their own inventions, for we have not allowed the manufacturers to assist their workmen by paying a part of the wages out of the parochial rates. And here I may, perhaps, be permitted to extend my answer to one of the questions yesterday proposed, inquiring why the northern counties, at a certain line of demarcation, appeared to define the boundary between the pauperized and the non-pauperized countries, in respect of payment out of the rates? If we were to allow such a practice in the manufacturing counties, it would at once terminate the existence of property. In the south, the farmer or occupier pays in a different form than wages of labour, for which he has an allowance from his landlord; but in the manufacturing counties we should, in paying the wages of labour, become contributors towards the manufacturers fund, not towards the fund of the landed interest; therefore we should be paying that for which no allowance had been made in the adjustment of rental between landlord and tenant. For instance, if 100 labourers are taken in one of the southern counties, though we repudiate the principle because it demoralizes the feelings of those people, yet an allowance for labourers wages has been made to the landlord in the adjustment of rent, and the tenant only conveys to the agricultural labourers subsistence through a different channel; but if the payment of wages out of the rates were to become a general practice in Nottinghamshire, 50 out of 100 in some parishes would be artificers; then, by paying those artificers through such a channel, you would withdraw the property of the land to reduce the price of manufacturers; consequently, though this arrangement might benefit the merchant, it would absolutely ruin the landed proprietors; indeed, so well was that understood, that a large landed proprietor in our county has directed manufactures, in the stagnation of trade, to be carried on without reference to profit, in order that every poor man might be employed in this parish, which was then pauperized nearly to the extent of the rental, at such wages as were thought fair and just; and I believe on the turn of the tide, that this concern did not prove a losing one, though it was dictated originally by pure benevolence. This I have endeavoured to state as one of the probable reasons why this mode of payment does not predominate in the northern counties; and so strictly do we adhere to this principle, that if a framework-knitter says, "I want relief only for one child," we reply, "why do you want relief for one child?" he answers, "my wages are not sufficient;" then we add, "give up your trade, if it will not support you; exercise your ingenuity; choose another;" but we never pay them in part; we never allow able-bodied men relief out of the parish purse when they are working for the manufacturers. Then, with regard to this mode of payment, there is another gross inequality in it, which I would just state. I could apply it to houses and property of other denominations, but I will take the tithes; it matters not whether it belong to the lay impropricator or the clerical incumbent. Let it be assumed that a man occupies eight acres of land, and that the rent of this land is stated to be 1*l.* an acre, which will amount to 8*l.* a year; I will presume that the tenant makes of that land three rents; 8*l.* for his landlord, 8*l.* as a return for his own capital and superintendence, and 8*l.* for the expenses of cultivation; we will assume that he pays the whole of the wages for labour through this channel, for if he pays a part, he may upon the same principle, pay the whole; at all events the proportionate results will be the same. Now your Lordships will find, in the evidence taken on labourers wages before the Committee of the House of Commons, that meaning to do an act which I consider to be unjust, the occupiers of land did once, at Hurslemanceux, in the county of Sussex, pay the labourers only 6*d.* a day, in order that in this parish they might pay the remaining 12*d.* out of the rates. Now this farmer we will suppose, cultivates at the rate of 22*s.* 6*d.* per acre for labour; then the labour paid out of the rates will necessarily amount to 9*l.*, that is cent per cent upon the rent and the tithe; the whole of the tithe is in such a case absolutely absorbed. But how does the farmer? He pays 8*l.* for labour, but he receives the whole of these disbursements for labour through a different channel. I mention this, because a Bill pending before the House of Commons; and I have not heard this point so distinctly explained as I think it might be, though I conceive it would prove ruinous to property in tithes, and also injurious to property of other denomination; if that Bill were sanctioned by the Legislature, it would confer a power which might operate to the utter extinction of such property, because the tithe owner stands in a different situation from any other rate-payer, inasmuch as he is rated as the owner, whereas in all other cases the occupier is rated.

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Upon the whole, the Committee may infer that you are of opinion it is not politic or humane to send them abroad while we have land at home capable of cultivation?—I should state farther, that by the desire of the noble Chairman I have made out here a very copious Tabular Statement, extending the comparison between Nottinghamshire and Sussex to every county in England; whence, on taking the sums from Parliamentary documents, it appears that the rental of land is nearly 50,000,000*l.*, as it was taken in 1815. It may be said that land has fallen; still I believe the rental of the kingdom to be nearly as good as it was; because, though land may have fallen, still the multiplication of houses has filled up this deficiency, and raised the aggregate to nearly its former value. I hope I shall be enabled to obtain the actual rent of the land independently of the rent of the houses. We will for our present purpose call the rental of the land 40,000,000*l.*; then we must have three-fourths profit upon it, being the proportion assumed under the Property-tax Act, that is 30,000,000*l.*, making jointly 70,000,000*l.* I mention this, because I have not seen the tenant's profit taken correctly into account on making such calculations.

You mean profit on capital employed upon it?—Yes; profit arising out of the land; for we generally speak of rent not taking into account that it is universally admitted there remains still a rent of about three-fourths for the tenant; besides which it appears, from the table presented, there are 32,000,000 of acres, and of these there are 27,000,000 I assume, of cultivated acres.

In what country are there 32,000,000 of acres?—In England. I took the list of counties, with the annual value of property assessed in 1815 to the property tax; then the square miles, as stated in the Local Taxation, column 4; then the square acres, being the square miles multiplied into 640; then I took six-sevenths of the square acres, assuming them to be the cultivated acres, which process has been computed for every county. I then took the population as it was in 1821. Column 7 gives the total number of families in the kingdom. Column 8 gives the number of those families that are agricultural, taken from the Population Returns. Column 9 gives seven-twelfths of the agricultural families, which I assume to be labourers families. Column 10 gives the cultivated acres, divided into the total number of agricultural families. The next column contains the number of acres assignable to each labourer's family. Then the expenditure for labour upon those acres is stated for each agricultural family, assuming its amount either to be 1*l.*, or 15*s.*, or 10*s.*, or 5*s.* per acre. I had in my comparison taken 10*s.* as the lowest sum, but have brought it down to 5*s.* by the desire of the Chairman. The same expenditure apportioned among the labourers families; then the total population, divided so as to give the number of every family; and then the expenditure for the poor, extracted from the Local Taxation Report in 1831; then the expenditure on account of the poor per acre; then the expenditure on account of the poor per head; then the population upon every square mile; and afterwards the number of acres assignable to every inhabitant of England; next, the number of poor relieved in every hundred, and the number of members in every friendly society. Hence, I find that there are for every agricultural family 35 cultivated acres and nine-tenths, being very nearly 36 acres; and there are 62 cultivated acres for what I assume to be every labourer's family. Now, when we talk of over-population, I wish to trace the subject in this manner, and to ascertain what would be the effect of colonization. I will read the columns relating to Hertfordshire, which circumstances stand thus for that county:—The rental of Hertfordshire is 571,107*l.*; the square miles in it are 528; the square acres are 337,920; the cultivated acres are 289,646; the population in 1821 was 129,714; the total number of families was 26,170; the number of agricultural families was 13,485; the number of labourers families assumed was 7,866; the number of acres for each agricultural family was 21; and the number of acres for each labourer's family was 36; and taking the expenditure for cultivation at 1*l.* an acre, there was for every agricultural family 21*l.*, at 15*s.* an acre 15 guineas, at 10*s.* an acre 10 guineas, and at 5*s.* an acre five guineas; and for every labourer's family at 1*l.* an acre 36*l.*, at 15*s.* an acre 27*l.*, at 10*s.* an acre 18*l.*, and at 5*s.* an acre 9*l.* The number of each family consisted of four and nine-tenths. The expenditure for the poor in that county was 91,796*l.* in the year ending on the 25th March 1829, and the expense of the whole was 5*s.* 5*d.* per acre; and it was 14*s.* 1*d.* per head. Population on each square mile, 245; acres for each person, two and six-tenths; number of poor in every 100 persons, 11; number in friendly societies, nine and a half per cent.

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What was the result in Sussex?—In Sussex, 5s.; but it being in Hertfordshire the sum computed upon the population is 14s. 1½d. per head; in Sussex it is 1l. 0s. 2½d. per head. In Hertfordshire there are 295 persons upon the square mile, and in Sussex only 159. The number of poor relieved in Hertfordshire is 11 in the hundred; in Sussex 14; and the number of persons in friendly societies is nine and a half per cent. in Hertfordshire, and in Sussex only two and a half per cent. In the hundred of Redbournstoke the question is asked, what number of able-bodied labourers can be spared? The answer is, 681. Now, if we emigrate these 681 persons, it appears in all the Parliamentary Reports that the number of houses is nearly equal to the number of families; therefore we have 681 families to emigrate, and as five may be taken for a family, we may, for colloquial calculation, call it 600; we then have 600 multiplied into five, or 3,000 persons to emigrate. Various sums have been stated as the expense of emigration, but we will suppose that persons may be emigrated as low as 10l. each; we will take the above 3,000 persons at 10l. each, amounting to 30,000l., who have quitted their dwellings: now either these habitations will be occupied or they will be unoccupied; if they are occupied, they will be occupied by younger persons than those who emigrated, consequently by persons more likely to produce young families; therefore the latter end of such a measure will be worse than the first: but if we suppose that they remain unoccupied, the consequence will be, that the parish has paid first of all 10l. a man, or 30,000l.; but there was a quantity of the capital of the country vested in their dwellings, and these tenements we may average as producing 5l. each a year rent, which for the 600 will be 3,000l. a year withdrawn from the rent of such a district; but if we make our computation upon the capital of the country, then 5l. may be taken as the representative of 100l., or perhaps of 150l. hid out in building; we have therefore 600 times these sums; namely, either 60,000l. or 90,000l. withdrawn from the fixed capital of the country, in addition to 30,000l. paid as a low estimate for emigration. But I contend that it is impossible in the present state of things that the deserted dwellings should remain permanently unoccupied; there are people always ready to marry if opportunity be presented, and any body who inquires among the people will say so. Young persons frequently say, in the humble walks of life, "We are going to be married, but we are waiting for a harbour," meaning for a dwelling-house. But under any circumstances such tenements would not remain unoccupied, because the rents of these houses would be progressively reduced; they would be first offered at three-quarters of the former rent, then at half, or, in fact, on any terms, rather than allow them to remain unoccupied and unproductive; the consequence of which would be, that in attempting to relieve the density of the population, I feel convinced we should eventually increase it. Moreover, we should take away what Mr. Malthus calls the very essence of the restrictive check. I do not mean any check specially on matrimonial union, but the moral influences which induce discreet persons to abstain from marriage until they have made some provision towards the maintenance of a family; and we should have taken away all such restraint if we had emigrated out of Nottinghamshire to the extent assumed in the preceding argument, for the hundred of Redbournstoke would, according to their own statement, emigrate about one-fourth of their whole population. Now, if we had emigrated upon this principle one-fourth of the population, we should have ruined the county, and we should have injured, to a certain extent, the welfare of the kingdom, as far as the Nottinghamshire manufactory is concerned; though at the present time I understand that the manufacturers are doing more business in Nottinghamshire, notwithstanding these preventive checks, than they have been performing at any former period; it is apportioned in a different manner, and passes into other hands. Capital is spread over a more extensive surface; but I know, from the very best authority, that the manufacturers are now doing more business than at any previous time; the working artificers are all usefully and happily employed.

Can it, therefore, after what you have said, be humane or politic to send them abroad as long as we have land at home which is capable of being improved and made more productive?—I have never yet seen the question fairly decided, whether there be sufficient capital available so as to cultivate the land; taking into consideration the general average of time and season, for an occasional stagnation will unavoidably occur, there has actually existed what I conceive a superabundant population, that is, a population exceeding the competency of the land and the labour

labour of the district or country to support, when the population and the property have been fully called into operation.

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Can there be any want of land of this description when there are 6,710,400 acres of uncultivated land in England alone?—We must unite land, labour and capital, to render the system productive; and in stating, upon the table submitted, the number of acres assignable for each agricultural family, or to each agricultural labourer's family, I will further add, because it will shorten the consideration of any Peer who thinks it worth while to dedicate his attention to this point, that we maintain the poor in our workhouses well, giving them meat twice a week, at 2s. a week, taking the average of men, women and children, including apparel. I believe the poor can maintain themselves better and cheaper than we can. The annual cost is 5*l.* 4*s.* a head; therefore your Lordships may ascertain at any time whether there be a sufficient number of acres appropriated to any family, so as to produce for them 5*l.* 4*s.* a head as wages of labour; if there be, then sufficient has been earned to maintain the whole population.

[The Witness delivers in the Paper referred to by him; which is read.]

A TABULAR STATEMENT, showing the COMPARATIVE ABILITY of the several

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.
COUNTIES.	Annual Value of Property assessed in 1815 to Property Tax.	Square Miles.	Square Acres.	Cultivated Acres.	Population in 1821.	Number of Families.	Number of Agricultural Families.	Agricultural Labourer Families.
	£.							
Bedford - - -	343,888	483	226,320	253,089	83,716	17,373	10,754	6,979
Berk - - -	653,088	756	423,840	414,790	131,077	27,700	14,769	8,415
Bucks - - -	644,189	740	473,600	405,043	134,808	28,807	16,440	9,506
Cambridge - - -	655,220	858	540,120	470,075	121,009	25,600	15,530	9,060
Chester - - -	1,083,083	1,052	673,120	577,098	270,058	53,024	18,120	1,370
Cornwall - - -	916,060	1,397	840,120	797,035	257,447	51,202	19,304	11,159
Cumberland - - -	705,445	1,478	945,000	810,789	156,134	31,804	11,207	6,590
Derby - - -	897,050	1,010	670,160	590,835	213,333	45,404	14,580	8,060
Devon - - -	1,287,515	2,679	1,650,960	1,414,760	430,040	90,714	37,037	21,504
Donet - - -	668,305	1,005	645,000	533,315	144,000	30,313	14,811	8,645
Durham - - -	701,189	1,061	679,040	582,025	207,773	45,040	20,177	10,409
Essex - - -	1,526,830	1,532	980,480	840,412	289,484	59,039	24,200	10,720
Gloucester - - -	1,483,250	1,256	803,840	698,000	235,843	74,151	23,170	13,515
Hereford - - -	604,614	860	505,400	485,480	103,243	21,017	13,538	7,000
Hertford - - -	571,107	528	337,000	309,640	129,714	26,170	13,485	7,800
Huntingdon - - -	300,187	370	236,800	202,455	43,771	10,397	6,425	3,523
Kent - - -	1,646,170	1,537	983,680	843,122	420,050	86,000	30,809	18,000
Lancaster - - -	3,087,771	1,831	1,171,840	1,004,435	1,052,859	206,173	21,793	13,155
Leicester - - -	902,817	804	514,560	441,022	174,871	36,806	13,000	7,200
Lincoln - - -	2,001,830	2,748	1,778,720	1,507,475	283,058	58,760	24,900	10,520
Middlesex - - -	5,555,535	281	180,480	154,693	1,144,531	201,871	9,300	5,479
Monmouth - - -	295,097	498	318,720	273,189	71,839	14,122	6,020	3,211
Norfolk - - -	1,540,053	2,023	1,328,880	1,147,612	344,308	74,407	30,378	17,024
Northampton - - -	968,101	1,017	650,880	557,898	161,483	35,552	18,074	11,096
Northumberland - - -	1,400,604	1,871	1,107,440	1,000,378	198,065	43,128	11,597	6,507
Nottingham - - -	737,809	837	535,680	459,155	180,873	38,603	13,034	7,009
Oxford - - -	713,147	752	481,480	412,581	130,071	28,841	15,065	8,022
Rutland - - -	133,487	149	95,000	81,798	18,487	3,036	2,410	1,445
Salop - - -	1,007,088	1,341	868,440	735,135	206,153	41,636	18,414	10,741
Somerset - - -	1,600,651	1,542	1,020,880	900,755	325,314	73,537	31,448	10,844
Southampton - - -	1,130,051	1,028	1,041,920	893,075	283,098	57,048	24,398	14,175
Stafford - - -	1,190,884	1,148	734,720	652,760	341,040	68,780	18,025	10,086
Suffolk - - -	1,197,404	1,512	967,680	820,460	270,040	55,094	20,795	11,091
Surrey - - -	1,579,171	758	485,120	415,818	308,058	88,800	14,044	8,797
Sussex - - -	915,348	1,463	936,320	802,560	230,019	43,055	11,080	11,780
Warwick - - -	1,436,700	900	577,080	498,812	274,309	60,123	10,779	9,087
Westmorland - - -	298,193	763	488,320	418,560	51,389	10,438	5,066	2,674
Wilt - - -	1,155,458	1,379	882,560	751,480	222,157	47,084	24,073	14,097
Worcester - - -	700,605	749	466,560	399,090	184,494	39,000	14,028	8,700
York, E. Riding - - -	1,100,395	5,061	3,815,040	3,870,035	1,000,449	40,400	15,480	37,238
— N. Riding - - -	1,145,193				133,381	38,721	16,737	
— W. Riding - - -	2,320,405				789,357	160,400	31,613	
TOTALS - - £.	69,744,602	50,535	30,358,400	27,742,799	11,901,837	2,346,717	773,739	444,829
AVERAGES - - £.	1,243,615	1,263	808,960	653,719	281,035	58,007	10,043	11,120
	Abstract of Returns relative to the Expense and Maintenance of the Poor, 1815.	Local Taxation, Parliamentary Paper, and Annals of the Poor, 1815.	Being Columns 2. enclosed See Sup.	5-7th of Square Acres assessed to be cultivated Acres by Arthur Young.	Population Returns, 1801.	Population Returns, 1821.	Population Returns, 1821.	5-10th of Agricultural Families, assessed to be Agricultural Labourer Families by Colquhoun.

Counties in England respectively to support their Agricultural Population.

10. Number of Oxen and Horses to each Agricultural Family.	11. Number of cultivated Acres for each Agricultural Labourer's Family.	12. Feed for each Agricultural Family, estimated at different Rates of Expenditure for Labour per Acre.				13. Feed for each Agricultural Labourer's Family, estimated at different Rates of Expenditure for Labour per Acre.			
		£. s. d.				£. s. d.			
		£. l.	15s.	10s.	and 5s.	£. l.	15s.	10s.	and 5s.
12	40	23	17 5 -	11 10 -	5 15 -	40	30 - -	20 - -	10 - -
13	48	26	21 - -	14 - -	7 - -	48	36 - -	24 - -	12 - -
14	41	24	18 - -	12 - -	6 - -	41	30 15 -	20 10 -	10 5 -
15	51	30	22 10 -	15 - -	7 10 -	51	38 5 -	25 10 -	12 15 -
16	54	31	23 5 -	15 10 -	7 15 -	54	40 10 -	27 - -	13 10 -
17	64	37	27 15 -	18 10 -	9 5 -	64	48 - -	32 - -	16 - -
18	71	41	31 5 -	20 10 -	10 15 -	71	54 5 -	36 10 -	18 15 -
19	123	71	53 5 -	35 10 -	17 15 -	123	98 5 -	61 10 -	30 15 -
20	65	38	28 10 -	19 - -	9 10 -	65	49 10 -	33 - -	16 10 -
21	65	38	28 10 -	19 - -	9 10 -	65	48 15 -	32 10 -	16 5 -
22	63	37	27 15 -	18 10 -	9 5 -	63	47 5 -	31 10 -	15 15 -
23	105	61	45 15 -	30 10 -	15 5 -	105	78 15 -	52 10 -	26 5 -
24	43	45	18 15 -	12 10 -	6 5 -	43	32 5 -	21 10 -	10 15 -
25	50	48	21 - -	14 - -	7 - -	50	37 10 -	25 - -	12 10 -
26	61	55	25 5 -	17 10 -	8 15 -	61	45 15 -	30 10 -	15 5 -
27	36	31	15 15 -	10 10 -	5 5 -	36	27 - -	18 - -	9 - -
28	54	31	23 5 -	15 10 -	7 15 -	54	40 10 -	27 - -	13 10 -
29	46	27	20 5 -	13 10 -	6 15 -	46	34 10 -	23 - -	11 10 -
30	73	44	33 - -	22 - -	11 - -	73	56 5 -	37 10 -	18 15 -
31	58	33	24 15 -	16 10 -	8 5 -	58	43 10 -	29 - -	14 10 -
32	74	43	32 5 -	21 10 -	10 15 -	74	55 10 -	37 - -	18 10 -
33	28	16	12 - -	8 - -	4 - -	28	21 - -	14 - -	7 - -
34	77	45	33 15 -	22 10 -	11 5 -	77	57 15 -	38 10 -	19 5 -
35	54	34	23 5 -	15 10 -	7 15 -	54	40 10 -	27 - -	13 10 -
36	50	29	21 15 -	14 10 -	7 5 -	50	37 10 -	25 - -	12 10 -
37	159	88	66 - -	44 - -	22 - -	159	114 - -	76 - -	38 - -
38	57	33	24 15 -	16 10 -	8 5 -	57	42 15 -	28 10 -	14 5 -
39	44	25	18 15 -	12 10 -	6 5 -	44	33 - -	22 - -	11 - -
40	58	33	24 15 -	16 10 -	8 5 -	58	43 10 -	29 - -	14 10 -
41	68	39	29 5 -	19 10 -	9 15 -	68	51 - -	34 - -	17 - -
42	43	26	21 - -	14 - -	7 - -	43	32 5 -	21 10 -	10 15 -
43	63	36	27 - -	18 - -	9 - -	63	47 5 -	31 10 -	15 15 -
44	59	34	25 10 -	17 - -	8 10 -	59	42 15 -	28 10 -	14 5 -
45	41	25	19 10 -	13 - -	6 10 -	41	34 10 -	23 - -	11 10 -
46	47	27	20 5 -	13 10 -	6 15 -	47	35 5 -	23 10 -	11 15 -
47	62	36	27 - -	18 - -	9 - -	62	46 10 -	31 - -	15 10 -
48	50	29	21 15 -	14 10 -	7 5 -	50	37 10 -	25 - -	12 10 -
49	140	80	61 10 -	41 - -	20 10 -	140	105 - -	70 - -	35 - -
50	51	30	22 10 -	15 - -	7 10 -	51	38 5 -	25 10 -	12 15 -
51	45	26	19 10 -	13 - -	6 10 -	45	33 15 -	22 10 -	11 5 -
52	87	51	38 5 -	25 10 -	12 15 -	87	65 5 -	43 10 -	21 15 -
1440	2,496	1,449	1,096 15 -	704 10 -	362 5 -	2,496	1,878 - -	1,248 - -	624 - -
36	62	£36 4. 6.	27 3 4½	18 2 3	9 1 1½	£62. 8.	46 16 -	31 4 -	15 12 -
Cultivated Acres in Column 2, divided by Total Agricultural Labourers' Families.	Cultivated Acres in Column 3, divided by Agricultural Labourers' Families.								

* Continued on page 248.

A TABULAR STATEMENT, showing the Comparative Ability of the several Counties in

14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	COUNTIES
Number of each Family.	Expenditure for the Poor in Year ended 25th March 1830.	Cost of Poor per Acre.	Charge per Head on each Person.	Population on each Square Mile.	Number of Acres for each Person contained in the Population.	Number of Poor relieved in every 1000 Persons.	Number of Members in Friendly Societies in every 1000 Persons.	
	£.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.					
4.8	77,554	- 5 2	- 18 6	180	3.5	10	5 1/2	Bedford
4.7	105,034	- 4 4	- 16 -	174	3.6	17	4	Berk
4.6	134,408	- 5 3	- 18 6	181	3.5	19 1/2	5	Bucks
4.7	24,369	- 3 5	- 15 5	142	4.5	11 1/2	4 1/2	Cambridge
5.1	98,166	- 2 11	- 7 3	236	4.4	8 1/2	8 1/2	Chester
5.0	98,510	- 2 4	- 7 7	191	3.2	6	10	Cornwall
4.0	43,764	- 11	- 5 7	105	6.0	5	7 1/2	Cumberland
5.0	74,800	- 2 3	- 7 -	207	3.0	8	2	Derby
4.8	207,300	- 2 6	- 9 5	170	3.7	9	12 1/2	Devon
4.7	81,462	- 11 4	- 11 4	143	4.4	13	5	Donet
4.5	80,770	- 9 4	- 7 9	105	3.5	7 1/2	7 1/2	Durham
4.8	90,215	- 5 4	- 10 1	183	3.3	14	7 1/2	Essex
4.5	145,835	- 3 7 1/2	- 8 9	207	3.3	9 1/2	9	Gloucester
4.7	57,060	- 4 -	- 11 -	120	5.4	10 1/2	3	Hertford
4.0	91,795	- 5 5	- 14 1	245	2.6	11	9 1/2	Hertford
4.6	41,537	- 3 6	- 17 -	131	4.8	12	6	Huntingdon
4.0	340,535	- 6 11	- 15 11	277	2.3	11 1/2	4	Kent
5.1	260,321	- 4 5	- 4 11	275	1.1	5	17	Lancaster
4.7	166,802	- 4 1	- 13 3	217	2.0	10 1/2	10	Leicester
4.8	171,565	- 1 11	- 12 1	103	6.8	6 1/2	3 1/2	Lincoln
4.3	659,625	- 7 3	- 11 6	4,058	.15	12	6 1/2	Middlesex
5.0	22,076	- 1 7	- 6 4	144	4.4	6 1/2	13	Monmouth
4.5	275,850	- 4 1	- 16 -	164	3.8	11	4 1/2	Norfolk
4.5	140,026	- 4 3	- 17 4	169	4.0	11	7	Northampton
4.6	75,275	- 1 3	- 7 3	106	6.0	8	7	Northumberland
4.3	69,137	- 2 7	- 7 4 1/2	225	2.2	7 1/2	11 1/2	Norwich
4.7	123,369	- 5 1	- 18 -	122	3.6	13	5	Oxford
4.6	81,139	- 1 10	- 9 10 1/2	124	5.1	6 1/2	8	Rutland
4.0	80,063	- 1 10	- 7 7	123	6.1	10	12 1/2	Salop
4.8	153,206	- 2 11	- 8 8	216	2.0	8 1/2	7	Somerset
4.8	193,371	- 3 8	- 13 7	174	3.0	10	4 1/2	Southampton
4.0	119,079	- 3 3	- 7 -	207	2.1	8	14	Stafford
4.0	244,095	- 3 -	- 17 10 1/2	178	3.5	12 1/2	6	Suffolk
4.4	243,452	- 10 -	- 12 2 1/2	225	1.9	7	6 1/2	Surrey
5.0	225,745	- 5 -	- 1 - 2 1/2	189	4.0	14	3 1/2	Sussex
4.5	141,579	- 4 10 1/2	- 10 3	204	2.1	9 1/2	10 1/2	Warwick
4.0	34,793	- 1 -	- 9 7	67	5.5	7 1/2	3	Westmorland
4.6	173,480	- 3 11	- 15 7 1/2	161	3.0	15	8	Wilts
4.7	75,863	- 3 2 1/2	- 8 8 1/2	232	2.5	8	8 1/2	Worcester
4.8	441,525	- 3 3 1/2	- 7 6 1/2	196	3.2	7 1/2	2 1/2	York, E. Riding
								York, W. Riding
								W. Riding
190.4	6,068,270	7 4 7 1/2	23 11 3	11,909	144.85	290.7	300.6	TOTALS
4.7	151,706	- 3 7 1/2	- 11 9 1/2	207	3.6	9.7	7.6	AVERAGES
Total Population in Column 6, divided by Total Families in Column 7.	Total Taxation, Parliamentary Paper.	Column 15, Expense of Poor, divided by Column 4, containing the Square Acres.	Column 16, Expense of Poor, divided by Column 6, being the Population.	Column 6, Total Population, divided by Column 3, being the Square Miles.	Column 4, divided by Column 6.	Abstract of Returns relative to the Expense & Maintenance of the Poor, 1815.		

* Continued from page 247.

England respectively to support their Agricultural Population—continued.

ADDED BY ORDER OF COMMITTEE.

Number of Acres for each Agricultural Family.	Number of Acres for each Agricultural Labourer's Family.	Fund for each Agricultural Family, estimated at different Rates of Expenditure for Labour per Acre.						Fund for each Agricultural Labourer's Family, estimated at different Rates of Expenditure for Labour per Acre.								
		£. s.		15s.		10s. and 5s.		£. s.		15s.		10s. and 5s.				
		£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.			
27	47	27	00	5	13	10	—	47	35	5	23	10	—	11	15	—
30	50	30	24	—	16	—	—	50	42	—	28	—	—	14	—	—
38	48	28	21	—	14	—	—	48	36	—	24	—	—	12	—	—
35	60	35	26	5	17	10	—	60	45	—	30	—	—	15	—	—
31	63	31	23	5	15	10	—	63	47	5	31	10	—	15	15	—
43	75	43	32	5	21	10	—	75	59	5	37	10	—	18	15	—
83	143	83	62	5	41	10	—	143	107	5	71	10	—	35	15	—
45	77	45	33	15	22	10	—	77	57	15	38	10	—	19	5	—
44	76	44	33	—	22	—	—	76	57	—	38	—	—	19	—	—
43	74	43	32	5	21	10	—	74	55	10	37	—	—	18	10	—
72	123	72	56	—	36	—	—	123	92	5	61	10	—	30	15	—
30	50	30	22	10	15	—	—	50	37	10	25	—	—	12	10	—
34	59	34	25	10	17	—	—	59	44	5	29	10	—	14	15	—
41	71	41	30	15	20	10	—	71	53	5	35	10	—	17	15	—
25	42	25	18	15	12	10	—	42	31	10	21	—	—	10	10	—
26	63	26	27	—	18	—	—	63	47	5	31	10	—	15	15	—
21	54	21	23	5	15	10	—	54	40	10	27	—	—	13	10	—
51	86	51	38	5	25	10	—	86	66	—	44	—	—	22	—	—
20	67	20	20	5	19	10	—	67	50	5	33	10	—	16	15	—
22	86	22	27	10	25	—	—	86	64	10	43	—	—	21	10	—
29	34	29	14	5	9	10	—	34	24	—	16	—	—	8	—	—
32	90	32	28	—	20	—	—	90	67	10	45	—	—	22	10	—
26	63	26	27	—	18	—	—	63	47	5	31	10	—	15	15	—
34	58	34	25	10	17	—	—	58	43	10	29	—	—	14	10	—
103	177	103	77	5	51	10	—	177	132	15	83	10	—	44	5	—
30	67	30	22	5	19	10	—	67	50	5	33	10	—	16	15	—
30	51	30	22	10	15	—	—	51	38	5	25	10	—	12	15	—
39	67	39	29	5	19	10	—	67	50	5	33	10	—	16	15	—
45	70	45	33	15	22	10	—	70	59	5	39	10	—	19	15	—
38	50	38	24	15	16	10	—	50	37	10	25	—	—	19	10	—
41	73	41	31	10	21	—	—	73	54	15	36	10	—	18	5	—
49	68	49	30	—	20	—	—	68	51	—	34	—	—	17	—	—
38	53	38	23	5	15	10	—	53	39	15	26	10	—	13	5	—
38	55	38	24	—	16	—	—	55	41	5	27	10	—	13	15	—
42	73	42	31	10	21	—	—	73	54	15	36	10	—	18	5	—
34	58	34	25	10	17	—	—	58	43	10	29	—	—	14	10	—
95	164	95	71	5	47	10	—	164	123	—	82	—	—	41	—	—
35	60	35	26	5	17	10	—	60	45	—	30	—	—	15	—	—
31	53	31	23	5	15	10	—	53	39	15	26	10	—	13	5	—
50	102	50	44	5	29	10	—	102	76	10	51	—	—	25	10	—
1,691	2,915	1,691	1,225	5	845	10	—	2,915	2,185	5	1,437	10	—	793	15	—
62	72	£42.5.6.	32	14	1½	21	2	72	54	13	36	8	9	18	4	4½
Square Acres in Column 4, divided by Total Agricultural Families.	Square Acres in Column 4, divided by Agricultural Labourer's Families.															

ADDED BY ORDER OF COMMITTEE.

J. T. Becker, Clerk.

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.
14 March 1831.

Do not you find that in the pauperized districts the families are too much crowded, two or three families in a cottage?—Your Lordships will perceive from the Table that there are several populous counties, and on examining the whole of the counties there does not appear a difference exceeding unity between the highest and the lowest number of persons in any family, taking any two counties. The families averaging the greatest number contain five and three-tenths individuals in Sussex, and the smallest families contain four and three-tenths individuals in Middlesex.

Do the family mean all the inmates of the cottage, whether one or more?—I find the number of families that there are, and I find the number of people; if we divide the population by the number of families, we find the number in each family.

Do you mean that each house contains only four and a fraction, or that each family consists of four and a fraction?—The families and the houses are not taken in the Population Returns as coincident quantities.

Supposing a man and his wife and one child, and another man and his wife and two children, occupying one cottage, would you call that one family?—No. The number of families in England is not strictly equal to the number of houses. Mr. Rickman, by whom the original Returns were compiled and arranged, has told me that he thinks the agricultural families a good column; in his opinion that column is as correct as can be expected. The inquiry was made at each cottage of the number residing in the cottage. According to the Returns the total number of inhabited houses are to the total number of families nearly as 19 to 23.

If the excess were to emigrate, there would still remain but one family to every house, the consequence of which would be, that there would be no number of houses left untenanted?—If 19 inhabited houses contain 23 families, then there will be in every 100 houses an excess of about 21 additional families.

If these families were to emigrate, there would be no superfluous population?—If you could exactly gauge the families as you would a machine, and say, I will take precisely that part away which creates an excess in each house, such an apportionment would not leave the houses unoccupied; but I think it would reduce the rents, because the number remaining would not be so able to pay the rent as when they were subject only to a part of it.

You state that you conceive the rental, including the houses, must be nearly the same as it was in 1815; how do you conceive, taking the prices of the last few years, that the tenantry have been able to meet that reduction in price without a loss of capital, particularly in poor soils?—In Nottinghamshire there has been a diminution in the amount of rents to the extent of 20 or 25 per cent., and where such deductions have not been made, the farmers have undoubtedly, in several instances, sacrificed their own capital and sustained a loss.

If, where the soil is generally good, as it is in Nottinghamshire, they have in many instances suffered in their capital, do not you think that in Sussex, where the soil is greatly inferior, they must have sustained greater losses, and suffer greater inability of employing labour?—I am not competent to speak precisely as to the comparative value of the land in Sussex and Nottinghamshire; but in Nottinghamshire there is a very large district of light blowing sandy soil, yielding little if any profit in cultivation. In other parts of it, and particularly in my own neighbourhood, there are as strong tenacious unproductive clays as I know of in any part of the kingdom.

What may be the produce per acre of wheat upon that strong unproductive land?—Under bad cultivation about 20 bushels, or two quarters and a half, and under good cultivation about three quarters, that is, 24 bushels.

On the light blowing sand what is the production?—Scarcely anything in corn; it is the sustentation which is yielded by turnips and by artificial grasses which constitutes the principal value of the very light sandy soils; indeed, were it not for the investment of capital to a great extent, and that principally in bones, such land would produce little or nothing.

How much of any other kind of grain would this very light land produce by the acre?—Perhaps from three to four quarters of barley, to which we may add, as a source of profit, the preceding turnips, and then the seeds that are upon it; but I have known a whole field carried away by the wind.

Have

Have you any further statement of the price of cultivation per acre in your county?—I have another from the Duke of Portland, and another from Mr. John Parkinson. The Duke of Portland, in his letter, says, "I send you the following account of Mr. Neil's farm, under very high management, for three years: Acres, 260; labour in 1828, 280; in 1829, 300; in 1830, 338. He is in the habit of bringing annually more than 300 tons of manure from Mansfield. The average for cultivation of 200 acres for three years is 23s. 6d. per acre." Mr. Parkinson writes as follows: "Ley Fields, Newark, 11th March 1831. Rev. Sir, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour, dated the 7th instant, and to express my obligation for your good opinion. I have considered the subject of my last communication to you more fully; and although I am convinced that, to carry on the business of a farm of the average quality of land, and containing an average proportion of arable, in the manner now practised by many occupiers of land in this county, and which is certainly more beneficial both for landlord and tenant than if an inferior system were adopted by them, their expenses have for the last three years exceeded considerably 20s. per acre per annum; yet, taking into account the proportions of light sandy soil, and permanent pasture and meadow, and that there are many who do not, from inability or the want of proper spirit, expend the amount which they might do to advantage, I think that the expenditure for agricultural labour upon all the land used for farming purposes (excepting roads, wastes and fences,) may not have exceeded 15s. per acre per annum for the last three years, and which is the opinion of several, whom I think competent to give the matter proper consideration. The expenditure for labour on the demesne lands, and in woods and gardens, &c., must be considerably more; and the amount paid for making roads and for draining land, and various improvements made by landlords, must be considered as paid in addition to the average of 15s. per acre per annum. It is incumbent upon me to correct, by the foregoing statement, the opinion respecting the average expenditure for agricultural labour which I transmitted to you, as in the preparing thereof I had reference to the management of too great a proportion of those whose concerns are certainly carried on at an expense beyond the ability of the majority of farmers in this county. In consequence of the general liberality of the landlords in this county, and from their having found employment for so many labourers, their tenants have been enabled to give adequate wages for supporting the agricultural population without parochial relief, except in cases of infirmity and sickness. In this part of the county farmers were sometimes inconvenienced by sturdy paupers, who depended upon and obtained parochial relief, although they could have earned sufficient wages for supporting themselves and their families; but since the establishing of that excellent institution, "The Incorporated Poorhouse at Upton," a much better system of management has prevailed, and which has produced most beneficial effects, for the labouring classes here have never been more industrious and contented than they are at the present time, and all are in full employment and at good wages. Wherever there is distress, and the agricultural population is not in full employment, it is most advisable that landlords should improve their estates in preference to their making returns for rent due. In all cases where rents are too high, permanent abatement ought to be made, or ruin is inevitable; but instead of making returns of rent on account of casual losses, the liberality of proprietors would ultimately prove more advantageous to themselves and their tenants by making permanent improvements, than if the latter were assisted in any other manner." I was asked on a former day whether I could produce the Table that was originated at Speenhamland. I have got it now.

[The same is read, and is as follows:]

Rev.
John Foss, Beoker.
14 March 1831.

Rev.
John Thos. Barker.

FIRST CALCULATION.

14 March 1831.

This shows at one view what should be the weekly Income of the indigent Poor, as settled by the Magistrates for the County of Berks, at a Meeting held at Speenensland, 6th May 1796.

When the Garden Leaf is,	Income should be										
	For a Man.	For a Single Woman.	For a Man and his Wife.	For a Man and his Wife,							
				With One Child.	With Two Children.	With Three Children.	With Four Children.	With Five Children.	With Six Children.	With Seven Children.	
s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1 -	3 -	2 -	4 6	6 -	7 6	9 -	10 6	12 -	13 6	15 -	
1 1	3 3	2 1	4 10	6 5	8 -	9 7	11 2	12 9	14 4	15 11	
1 2	3 6	2 3	5 -	6 10	8 6	10 2	11 10	13 6	15 2	16 10	
1 3	3 9	2 3	5 6	7 3	9 -	10 9	12 6	14 3	16 -	17 9	
1 4	4 -	2 4	5 10	7 8	9 6	11 4	13 2	15 -	16 10	18 8	
1 5	4 3	2 5	6 2	8 1	10 -	11 11	13 10	15 9	17 8	19 7	
1 6	4 6	2 6	6 6	8 6	10 6	12 6	14 6	16 6	18 6	20 6	
1 7	4 9	2 7	6 10	8 11	11 -	13 1	15 5	17 3	19 4	21 5	
1 8	5 -	2 8	7 2	9 4	11 6	13 8	15 10	18 -	20 3	22 4	
1 9	5 3	2 9	7 6	9 9	12 -	14 3	16 6	18 9	21 -	23 3	
1 10	5 6	3 10	7 10	10 2	12 6	14 10	17 2	19 6	21 10	24 3	
1 11	5 9	3 11	8 -	10 7	13 -	15 5	17 10	20 3	22 8	25 1	
2 -	6 -	3 -	8 6	11 -	13 6	16 -	18 6	21 -	23 6	26 -	

SECOND CALCULATION.

which was adopted.

s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1 -	3 -	2 -	4 6	6 -	7 6	9 -	10 6	12 -	13 6	15 -
1 1	3 3	2 1	4 10	6 5	8 -	9 7	11 2	12 9	14 4	15 11
1 2	3 6	2 3	5 -	6 10	8 6	10 2	11 10	13 6	15 2	16 10
1 3	3 9	2 4	5 6	7 3	9 -	10 9	12 6	14 3	16 -	17 9
1 4	4 -	2 5	5 10	7 8	9 6	11 4	13 2	15 -	16 10	18 8
1 5	4 3	2 5	6 2	8 1	10 -	11 11	13 10	15 9	17 8	19 7
1 6	4 6	2 6	6 6	8 6	10 6	12 6	14 6	16 6	18 6	20 6
1 7	4 9	2 7	6 10	8 11	11 -	13 1	15 5	17 3	19 4	21 5
1 8	5 -	2 8	7 2	9 4	11 6	13 8	15 10	18 -	20 3	22 4
1 9	5 3	2 9	7 6	9 9	12 -	14 3	16 6	18 9	21 -	23 3
1 10	5 6	3 10	7 10	10 2	12 6	14 10	17 2	19 6	21 10	24 3
1 11	5 9	3 11	8 -	10 7	13 -	15 5	17 10	20 3	22 8	25 1
2 -	6 -	3 -	8 6	11 -	13 6	16 -	18 6	21 -	23 6	26 -

I have before me a paper that I wish to have laid upon your Lordships' table, which proves these facts: In the year 1823, when the workhouse for my neighbourhood was incorporated, the rates payable by each person were to be computed on what are called, in Gilbert's Act, their Mediums; those are the rates payable solely on account of the poor for the term of three years immediately preceding the given date. I examined those rates myself, in conjunction with two arbitrators, and we reduced their expenditure for the poor to the lowest possible sum; we then gave them the rate that they might further reduce the amount if practicable; consequently it stands at the lowest sum. Notwithstanding this, it appears, by the return made to me at Lady-day in the year 1830, that the rates, which amounted in 1823 to 6,603*l.*, were reduced in 1830 to 5,832*l.*, being a decrease of 771*l.* All the accounts of those parishes have been so arranged upon my system of book-keeping, that I could explain, if it were desired, under what particular heads of expenditure the increase and the decrease took place in each parish.

[The Witness delivers in the Paper, which is read, and is as follows:]

ON THE STATE OF THE POOR LAWS

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PARISHES	Medians for Three Years ending at Lady-day 1853.	Expenses for Year ended 25 March 1850.	Increase	Decrease.	Rentals in 1850.	Population in 1851.	Agricultural Families in 1851.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.		
Ancrum - -	97	130	33	-	3,749	191	27
Boughton - -	64	73	9	-	1,331	289	57
Cobham - -	133	70	-	63	1,154	74	11
Compton - -	956	975	19	-	4,493	407	69
Cornwall - -	128	135	7	-	2,105	184	21
Collingham, S.	394	244	-	60	3,440	686	109
Egmont - -	126	190	-	6	1,642	320	60
Edwinstowe - -	274	993	19	-	2,190	648	113
Eskring - -	238	-	-	-	2,679	264	110
Flinton - -	220	161	-	59	4,157	546	93
Halbington - -	30	32	2	-	1,206	101	21
Hockerton - -	37	50	13	-	1,740	115	20
Housingham - -	117	169	52	-	1,708	335	36
Kelham - -	165	163	-	12	4,391	199	30
Kiddington - -	191	134	-	57	689	24	28
Kilvington - -	4	13	9	-	2,363	240	7
Knead - -	246	146	-	100	2,637	414	53
Lorton - -	189	228	39	-	3,007	615	102
Loughby - -	144	138	-	6	2,069	147	21
Masham, N. - -	170	81	-	69	3,894	445	44
Masham, S. - -	180	192	12	-	4,083	278	42
Mapplebeck - -	51	66	15	-	1,238	193	31
Narwell - -	280	204	-	76	3,064	476	74
Osington - -	179	165	-	14	2,006	301	38
Rolleston - -	105	77	-	28	3,297	306	46
Sole, East - -	218	201	-	17	3,171	424	62
Sutton-Open-Trent	326	294	-	32	2,064	884	119
Syrton - -	23	30	16	-	1,423	129	22
Saythorpe - -	20	12	-	8	1,085	69	12
Screston - -	190	112	-	8	1,668	292	42
Thurgarton - -	149	74	-	75	3,406	320	45
Thurpe - -	48	112	64	-	1,173	96	22
Upton - -	199	156	-	43	2,356	432	77
Walsby - -	111	117	6	-	957	308	46
Weller - -	99	65	-	34	1,005	444	65
Winkham - -	121	71	-	60	1,883	159	23
Wotton - -	193	122	-	71	2,771	300	49
Wintorpe - -	44	40	-	4	1,005	235	39
TOWNSHIPS:							
Atherton - -	16	3	-	13	603	-	-
Bathley - -	84	101	17	-	-	172	33
Budby - -	88	52	-	36	863	140	29
Carlton - -	143	102	-	41	1,579	287	45
Granthorpe - -	72	77	5	-	1,128	57	20
Holme - -	78	65	-	13	1,938	114	21
Norwell Woodhouse	22	40	18	-	-	111	21
Opton - -	76	32	-	44	509	126	17
Ollerton - -	215	228	13	-	1,788	576	61
Potescliffe - -	59	41	-	18	966	93	5
Rufford - -	389	327	-	62	4,217	323	60
TOTAL - -	6,603	5,892	363	1,129	126,401	14,279	2,206

From Decrease - - - 1,129
Take Increase - - - 358

DECREASE - - - 771

Rev.
John Thos. Becker,
14 March 1851.

Rev.
John Tins. Becker.
14 March 1831.

Have you turned your attention at all to spade husbandry?—I did, when Nottingham was distressed; that was one of the means we tried, we had some such employment, and we have always in the parish of Southwell a few acres, perhaps four or five, to cultivate in this manner; but our primary object is merely to be enabled to say to a man, "If you insist upon employment, you may go and dig by the piece." The poor would undertake the work at 3*d.* a rod, perch, or pole, that is, thirty square yards and a quarter, being about 2*l.* per acre; but we allow them 4*d.* per rod, or 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per acre; we will say 2*l.*: but when we talk of generalizing spade husbandry as a source of regular profitable employment, we must take into account that it is impossible to conduct agricultural concerns without a certain number of horses; therefore spade husbandry cannot be extensively introduced as a substitute for our present system of husbandry. When Mr. Rickman read my little book on the Anti-pauper System, he was pleased with it, and he made several minute inquiries upon subjects connected with the management of the poor in the Isle of Wight; they are, according to his calculations, which I believe to be correct, purchasing potatoes at 1*s.* 4*d.*, while they are producing them by the spade husbandry at 11*s.* 9*d.*, potatoes being there grown at 11*s.* 9*d.* the bushel, namely, 2,102 bushels for 1,194*l.*, though potatoes in large quantities were purchased at 1*s.* 9*d.* With regard to spade husbandry, all the experience I have had goes nearly to this point: every man in Thurgarton, which is considered a well-regulated parish, has a garden; the maximum of his garden is half an acre, the minimum a rood. We have always found that a man is considerably benefited by a small garden, but that the size of it should be such as to merely occupy occasionally his leisure hours, without taking his labour out of the market, otherwise an injury will be done to the landowners and occupiers.

Have you had any opportunity of observing whether the produce of land is increased by spade husbandry, or not?—We may say, from looking at the gardens around us, that it is increased manifold by spade husbandry in combination with other circumstances; and in our strong clays, spade husbandry would create a drainage, because the spade penetrates deeper than the plough; but then, unless the diggers were vigilantly watched, they have constant opportunities of defrauding their employers by not penetrating to a sufficient depth. I have known spade husbandry tried to the extent of some acres during the distresses of our artificers, but it did not answer.

What was the loss?—I cannot say. We allowed the men out of the public subscription, I think, about 10*d.* a day, that they might dig, as a substitute for ploughing it; at 3*d.* a rod or perch, the digging of 160 perches, being one acre, would be 2*l.*; and at 4*d.* a rod or perch, it would be 2*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* The ploughing of an acre of land is worth about 10*s.*; consequently there is 2*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* to set against the additional produce; but that 10*s.* is the cost if the farmer has to pay for his horses, not where he has them.

There is no increase of produce commensurate with the additional expense?—I have never found that there was; their gardens should not be such as to get them into the Irish potato system, so as to increase in population in that way, or the evil of pauperism will be increased.

What is your opinion with regard to the keeping of cows?—That I have known tried extensively: it appears too great a risk for a poor man; and I have found it constantly tempting them to keep their children at home; their daughters remain at home to milk the cows, and they get into mischief. The great advantage of a poor man is, to teach his family, as soon as possible, the means of earning their own livelihood, so as to subsist upon their personal resources; therefore, regarding cow-keeping as a system, I do not think it is beneficial to a cottager, or to the members of his family.

Do you conceive that thrashing machines have the effect of adding to the means of employment, or have a contrary effect?—I have made very minute inquiries respecting them; I have known them erected in our country, and taken down again. Mr. Sutton, of Kellam, the brother to the late Archbishop of Canterbury, erected one, which was very soon taken down. Admiral Sotherton erected another, which was taken down. The Mr. Milwards, and nearly the whole of the farmers around us, conduct their extensive concerns without thrashing machines. It appears to me that the question has never been argued upon its true principle. Some of the writers endeavour to sustain the legality of using such machines. I suppose no person will deny the lawfulness of using any machine not prohibited by the Legislature. Then they say, that it produces one-tenth

Rev.
John Tins. Becker.
14 March 1831.

tenth more corn in certain years, when corn yields reluctantly to the flail; possibly it may produce rather more grain from the straw, but it does not do so if suitable wages for thrashing are allowed to labourers, so as to induce them to thrash all the corn out of the straw; besides which, it produces an effect detrimental to the farmer, because it deteriorates the value of the straw. The reason why I conceive the question not to have been argued upon its true principles is, that they reason upon the general principles of political economy, without treating the employment of such machinery as a question of expediency. The question to be decided by the farmer is, whether it be advisable to throw out of employment those labourers whom he is compelled to sustain when he has divested them of their ordinary occupation? That peculiar circumstance affects materially this case, and imposes upon it a peculiar character: for instance, a manufacturer at Nottingham invents a machine for shortening labour; he throws a certain number of persons out of employ; but he is subject only to a rate upon his dwelling-house and his factory, or his warehouse; but if the same number of persons are thrown out of employ in an agricultural parish, they must still be maintained by the very person who uses these thrashing machines. Therefore the question in many parts is, whether the labourers shall be maintained in idleness, or whether the farmers will lay aside their thrashing machines? In certain districts their husbandry cannot be conducted without machinery; for instance, in the neighbourhood of Howden in Yorkshire, and in other districts which are thinly peopled. But I will state it as a general case. It is laid down as a principle of political economy, that if a machine is useful for abridging labour, all persons exercising the same employment must, to compete successfully in the market, use the same machine, or such a machine as will equally reduce the cost of labour. In the Reports on the Corn Laws before the House of Commons, the wheat grown in England was taken at nearly ten millions of quarters, and all other kinds of corn at about twenty-seven millions of quarters; the present annual produce has been supposed to equal more than forty-eight millions of quarters of grain of different sorts. Now, supposing this to be thrashed at the rate of half-a-crown a quarter, which is about the average rate, then, as half-a-crown is the eighth of a pound, six millions of money are the eighth part of forty-eight millions. Then the question becomes a question of expediency, whether I will take six millions of money out of the fund for human agricultural labour, and whether I will deteriorate the straw? I know it will be replied, women and boys are employed in thrashing machines; I am fully aware of that. Suppose that a million of money may be paid to them under those circumstances, or call it even two millions, still there will be four millions of money taken out of the market by those who are compelled to support the individuals who have been dispossessed of their occupation, and to maintain them either with or without employment; consequently, in any community where labour is not superabundant, the thrashing machine imposes an expense on farmers, even though the corn may be rendered cheaper, and the straw not deteriorated. Still, however, that cheapness does not attach so much to the farmer as to the country in general. Moreover, we know that transition is always attended with inconvenience both to operatives and to mechanists; by which I mean, transition from human labour to machinery, or from one species of machinery to another: though the change may eventually prove advantageous, still transition is, during its progress, invariably attended with partial distress.

How much do you conceive is produced more by the thrashing machine than by the flail?—It has been assumed to be one-tenth; but I have asked Mr. Milward, who, with his brother, cultivates 2,000 acres, and he does not conceive there is any gain, taking the straw into consideration, but rather the contrary.

It has been supposed that wheat thrashed by a flail produces 98 quarters, when by the thrashing machine it produces 100; do you conceive that to be true?—That would, if true, amount only to one-fiftieth part, which would not by any means be a compensation for the loss of the straw. The cattle eat the straw that has passed directly from the barn into the fold-yard; but you cannot prevail upon them to eat the straw which has been thrashed and huddled together, and kept for a considerable time; it is not like the straw served out to them from the stack. I think one proof that the profit and expediency of thrashing machines must be doubtful is, that Mr. Sutton, of Kelham, and Admiral Sotherton, neither of them deficient in capital, have laid aside their thrashing machines for several years. At Clumber they have a thrashing machine, but they are not using it. Some state that the horses are used at times when they would otherwise stand idle; but in our county

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.

14 March 1831.

the horses of a good farmer are never without sufficient employment; this I can state from personal experience, as well as from undoubted authority.

Has any alteration occurred to you as expedient in the law of settlement?—
With regard to all the laws concerning the poor, I have no hesitation in saying, and I think every practical magistrate must know, that it is much to be regretted, that, among the consolidation of various laws, those for larceny and malicious mischief, turnpikes and others, the laws respecting the poor have never been subjected to any substantial revision or consolidation. If any person takes up Nolan's Treatise on the Poor Laws, he will find that in the third volume there are 111 statutes respecting the poor; and if I have to refer to the law required for the management of a workhouse, I have to turn over ten Acts of Parliament, several of which are contradictory to others. As to the law of settlement, and as to parochial questions, I have an extract here, taken from Mr. T. Tidd Pratt's edition of Bott's Poor Laws, which brings the cases down to the year 1827; and the adjudged cases, which constitute but a very small portion of the decided cases, may be thus enumerated:—"Overseers, 78; poor's rate, 229; overseer's accounts, 42; proceedings for and against overseers, 45; rating parishes in aid, 25; maintenance of relatives, 36; relief and orders of poor, 25." Then we come to settlements:—"Bastards, 138; parish apprentices, 120; proceedings for poor in incorporated parishes, 1; settlement by birth, 32; settlement by parentage, 53; settlement by marriage, 38; settlement by renting tenements, 100; settlement by serving an office, 25; settlement by hiring and service, 231; settlement by apprenticeship, 118; settlement by estate, 80; persons irremovable until chargeable, 19; of certificates, 64; removal of the poor, 147; appeal to sessions, 123; total, 1,788." Now, if we go back, so far as settlements are concerned, to the statute of Queen Elizabeth, c. 43, it would be highly desirable. The statute before the 43d of Elizabeth was the 14th of Elizabeth, which says, that the poor shall be maintained in that place where they have been most conversant for the last three years, or at the place of their birth. It would prove highly beneficial if we could make the place of birth, and the place of residence for three years the only modes of settlement. Birth I do not conceive would be exclusively a desirable mode of settlement, because it is one of the questions on which a pauper can give no legal evidence; consequently, no judicious man, if he can avoid it, will set up a settlement by birth. For instance, a pauper is asked, Where were you born? He cannot know more than the report upon this point; therefore, a witness must be sent to examine the parish register, if it be at the Land's End, and to bring back an authentic copy; after which it is necessary to prove the pauper's identity. Then the statute says, "where they have been most conversant the last three years." If residence for three years would acquire a man a settlement, I conceive that residence might be taken as residence has been defined under the Clerical Residence Act, an absence of ninety days nullifying the residence. Any person might give notice to the parish officer that he or she will be examined, as it is now lawful under the Mutiny Act, and was formerly under the Friendly Society Act; and the record of the justices, if unappealed against, might be the place of the examinant's settlement. But if your Lordships should think that would be abrogating too much of the law, you will perceive that the number of questions decided upon hiring and service amount to double the questions adjudged on any other mode of settlement. Now for that as well as for other reasons, it appears to me desirable, to prevent in future the acquiring of a settlement by hiring and service; for in order to defeat a settlement by hiring and service a person was hired for three days less than a year. The question came before Justice Buller, in the case of *The King and Mursley*, in the year 1787, when it was decided, that a pauper may be hired for less than a year, to prevent his gaining a settlement; for such hiring is not necessarily fraudulent. The consequence of this case has been, that in Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire, and Derbyshire, scarcely any servant is hired for a year by any person in husbandry; such servants are hired for fifty-one weeks. The consequence is, that they are at liberty during one week in the year. The bond between master and servant is dissolved; those who have no friends spend their time in alehouses, or loiter about the country, to the detriment of their habits and morals. It will I presume be admitted, that when a law is nominally in force, but is virtually and systematically evaded, that law amounts to a dead letter on the Statute Book. Now, this mode of settlement is virtually evaded in nearly all cases, giving rise to litigations and perjuries without number; for when these settlements come under discussion, the

pauper,

pauper, not having completely understood the nature of the contract swears to a hiring for a year; his employer swears, on the other side, that the hiring was only for fifty-one weeks; he offers to produce his book; his book cannot be submitted to the court, unless it be called for by the opposite party; the consequence of which is, that the poor, not being able to discern between what is denominated in the law an evasive settlement and a fraudulent settlement, are constantly devising the means of defeating the law. To prevent this, I provide for them, in Nottinghamshire, little books, which are printed and ruled, to prevent, if possible, such frequent perjuries. These books contain the date of hiring, the name of the master, the name of the servant, the term from such a time to such a time, the wages, together with the signature of the contracting parties and of a witness. But the evil does not stop here: this not being the practice in towns, the land occupiers are throwing all the settlements on service upon the towns, since I never heard of menial servants hiring for fifty-one weeks; the consequence is, the servants are in our parts gaining settlements solely in the towns, or as domestic servants. Indeed the farmers have gone so far, in some places, as to enter into undertakings, that every person who hired a person for fifty-one weeks should pay a stipulated sum of money as a forfeiture. Since they have found that such contracts invalidated their evidence, they have been more circumspect. The whole of these transactions concerning the hiring of servants in husbandry being, in the midland counties, a collusion, I do not see that any evil could arise from providing that no person shall after such a date acquire a settlement by hiring or service. I cannot practically discern any objection to such a prohibition; it breaks no link in the bond of society; a person would still retain every mode of gaining a settlement. Respecting settlements, I abstain from recommending further attention, when we consider that in amending the Act concerning the renting tenements, the Legislature passed one Act in 1819, containing only a few lines, and that to amend this Act they have subsequently passed another Act, and that there is now a third Bill in the House of Commons, which Mr. Weyland has brought in, to amend the former Acts. However, I have no hesitation in saying, that your Lordships would confer a public benefit if you should be pleased to recommend the doing away any future settlement by hiring and service; for such contracts in husbandry concerns are, in our parts, from beginning to end, collusive, and very frequently fraudulent.

Have you any observations to propose to the Committee on the subject of the removal of paupers?—Respecting the removal of paupers, there is an Act, which is the 35 Geo. 3, which, in case of a suspended order of removal, requires that the charges incurred by the suspension, after having been allowed by the removing justices, shall be repaid by the overseers and churchwardens of the parish to which the pauper is removed: it does not require any account to be rendered, nor does it give any parish an appeal, unless the costs exceed 20*l*. The consequence is, we frequently have a pauper brought to one of our parishes, and a demand made for a specific sum of money; a bill of the particular charges is desired, and refused. I think no expense of this kind should be demandable, unless the order of removal be accompanied with a duplicate of the account, signed and allowed by the removing justices; and that, be the amount what it may, the parish subjected to any such payment should be empowered to appeal, if they consider that account to be exorbitant or unjust. Moreover, it is my opinion that it would be advantageous if the medical attendance upon the paupers, under a suspended order of removal, were always to be defrayed by the parish in which the pauper becomes chargeable; because the consequence of the present arrangement is, that the pauper falls into distress. There is generally a surgeon attending the parish poor at a specific sum, who would demand little or perhaps no addition to that sum, were he also to undertake the medical care required by the casual poor; but he makes a bill for the poor remaining under a suspended order of removal, making generally the same rate of charges as if the pauper were a person in affluent circumstances. The provision proposed by me would be merely this: that all sums of money, except the medical attendance and medicine, should be repaid by the parish to which the pauper belongs.

Would not that have the effect of making the parish in which the person is situate remove the person before he ought to be removed?—I think not; for the pauper cannot be removed until two justices certify that "they are satisfied that the order may be safely executed without danger to any person, who is the subject thereof." 35 Geo. 3, c. 101, s. 2.

Rec.
John Thos. Brooker.
14 March 1831.

Rev.
John Thos. Becker.
14 March 1831.

Might not the man be neglected?—If a man applies for relief, he is under the cognizance of the magistrates, and I cannot see why he should be neglected; before he is removed, his case must be again brought under the consideration of the removing justices.

If the order of removal is a suspended order, and the parish where he is situated is liable to no expense under that suspended order, will they not be likely to keep him longer, and be kinder to him, than if they are liable to expenses?—The pauper must first come under the examination of the justices; an order is made and then suspended. I would provide, as at present, for the poor man, all necessary maintenance, except medical attendance and medicine, and direct that the charge for these be defrayed at the expense of the parish where the casualty arises. These suspended orders of removal originate generally in towns, where the surgeon is frequently a member of the corporation, or closely connected with them, so that the transaction becomes tinged with self-interest.

Would it not be more scantily provided?—I think not; for the poor are generally attended according to a stipulated contract, by a medical man, who is as much bound to attend the paupers under a suspended order of removal as any other poor persons, assuming that they are equally included under his contract with the parish.

Has any evil appeared to you to arise from the mode of relief granted to militiamen's families?—A very serious evil; for I conceive that the universality of such relief has tended to depress the standard of independence, and to pauperize the country more than any other law; for every wife and family of militiamen or volunteers on service became entitled to such relief, if they could not support themselves. I have ordered 16s. a week to the wife and family of a volunteer, while trained and exercised. Since that period, the law respecting the militia has been altered for the better, allowing relief only for the wives and families of balloted men. Still, however, I conceive that the family of a balloted man should stand in the same situation as any other persons applying for money out of the parish fund; that is, they should show that they actually want it. If a person of substance is balloted, his family ought to have no demand upon the parish; and the magistrate should not be called upon to sign an order for the family of a person who is in perfect independence.

They are now entitled to it, without reference to the means of the individual?—Yes.

Do you think any exception ought to be made in favour of the wife of a balloted man, more than for the wife of any other pauper?—I conceive that every person who draws money out of the parish fund should do so for the relief of his necessities. Indeed I cannot admit that the compulsory support of any class of people by any other class of people, is founded upon any principle of civil right or of political economy: it is dictated by the moral feelings of tenderness and benevolence. Therefore I propose that the title of such families to relief should stand upon the same foundation as other parochial relief; and I venture to recommend that the clause should be thus worded:—"If any person serving, &c. as a balloted man, when embodied and called into actual service, shall be unable to support his family, and shall leave a family unable to support themselves, the overseers of the poor, by order of two justices, &c. My proposal is, that the justices issuing any such order should be not less than two in number, and that they should be empowered to take into consideration, not only the ability of the family to support themselves, but the ability of the militiaman so to do. The same remarks apply to yeomanry and volunteers.

Have you turned your attention to the effect of the laws of bastardy upon the morals of the lower orders?—I have turned my attention to this subject. We find that by enforcing the performance of the order on the part of the woman as well as on the part of the man, we obtain considerable benefit, and improve, as we apprehend, the morals of the parties; but there exists a difficulty in the recovery of those orders of maintenance made on the putative fathers of bastards. It was supposed, until some few years back, that an order of bastardy having been made and served upon any individual, he was bound to obey it without farther notice; so that by absenting himself from the parish, or from his abode, he rendered himself liable to be apprehended by a warrant. However, in a case before Lord Ellenborough it has been decided, that before you can apprehend the father of a bastard child for non-payment you must give him notice. The consequence of which

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which is, that sending to give such man notice, if you mean to apprehend him, amounts to giving him an opportunity of avoiding apprehension. I think that the law might be advantageously restored to what was supposed to be its principle; namely, that every person, having been served with an order of bastardy, should, if he absents himself from the parish on whose behalf the order may have been made, and allows arrears beyond a certain amount to accumulate, be liable to apprehension by a warrant, without any additional notice: for the non-payment is his own act; and to send an overseer 30 or 40 miles for the purpose of demanding the payments due, and afterwards to send the constable the same distance to apprehend a man who has fled, is imposing an unnecessary hardship on the parish, and almost precluding the recovery of the sums due by the father. In several counties they make their original orders of bastardy in sessions, which subjects the father to a heavy expense, by the employment of an attorney and a barrister; besides which it takes away the opportunity of appeal. In some counties they make a rule of court that the original orders of bastardy should be executed out of sessions. The law should, I think, require all original orders of bastardy to be made out of sessions. With regard to relief, which is one of the grand points at issue, the relief of the poor, it may be remarked that no specific authority is to be found in any statute empowering justices to order parochial relief, until the statute 3 William & Mary, c. 11, s. 11. You may inferentially deduce that the statute of Elizabeth intended that justices might order relief when necessary, but it is not specifically stated. The next Act after that of William & Mary is 9 Geo. 1, c. 7; then comes the Act of the 59 Geo. 3, c. 12, s. 5, brought in by Mr. Sturges Bourne, which says, "that every order to be made for the relief of any poor person, by the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of any parish not having a select vestry, under the authority of this Act, shall be made by two or more justices." Mr. Sturges Bourne, as I have understood, intended to introduce two justices as necessary to make an order for relief, and to invest them with a power to consider the character and conduct of the person applying for relief; but all this has been rendered in a great measure nugatory, because a single magistrate can make the order under the former statutes. If the 59 Geo. 3, be the most eligible statute, which certainly it appears to be, it seems almost necessary to enact, that the Acts of 3 William & Mary, c. 11, and the 9 Geo. 1, c. 7, as far as the ordering of relief extends, should not continue in force. Indeed, so strongly did Mr. Nolan feel upon this point, that he intimated in his speech that he meant to propose that even three magistrates should be required to make an order of relief. The same opinion has been entertained by many who regard the interference of the justices authorized by 36 Geo. 3, c. 23, to be nothing less than a manifest breach of faith. Magistrates were, previous to Gilbert's Act, 22 Geo. 3, empowered to order relief; therefore the parishes, to relieve themselves from the authority of the magistrates, incorporated under the statute called Gilbert's Act. But Mr. Rose brought in an Act, 36th Geo. 3, c. 23, empowering a magistrate, under certain circumstances, to interfere, and order relief to the paupers out of workhouses, at their own homes. This has been considered a violation of faith, as very large sums of money had been expended in order to evade the interference of justices; moreover it prepared the way for the clause in the 59 Geo. 3, c. 12, s. 2, enacting that a pauper shall not be required to travel more than six miles to the visitor, but may apply in such cases to a magistrate. Now, if 10 miles is to be the distance of the extremity from the centre of a district, and if the visitor of an incorporated workhouse be situate in that centre, it appears to be no hardship for the pauper to travel 10 miles. In the present improved state of the roads, this can scarcely be considered such a distance to prevent an application for relief to the visitor, without calling in a justice of the peace. According to my opinion, that pauperism which has overwhelmed several counties, has in a great degree arisen from the ill-judged, though well-intended, interference of the magistrate. In my experience, the leaning of the overseers has been generally too much towards the poor; they come into the office for only a year; some of them are under intimidation; and in our parts they were rather too easy in making allowances, which appears to have been the practice in former times, before the Act of William & Mary, which enjoins that the poor shall not be relieved without certain preliminaries, controlling the power of granting, collection, or relief. Concerning select vestries there is a clause bringing the proceedings of such vestries under the cognizance of the magistrates; the pauper gains the victory; the decision of

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the select vestry is superseded by two justices, and afterwards the vestrymen refuse to act; and that has prevented many select vestries from being formed, and has dissolved others after having been established. In all orders of relief by the justices, it seems desirable to allow an appeal against their decision. It has been adjudged now, that no appeal lies against the order of the magistrates; any pauper may apply to a single justice, and cause the very first persons in the parish to be groundlessly summoned before him; yet from this tribunal there is no appeal. It was said that the poor are not to starve. Certainly no person would vindicate a suspension of the order of relief; but it would surely suffice to have it remain in force until reversed by the quarter sessions; therefore the privilege of appeal would not affect the pauper; and as for the justice, he must vindicate his own act; if the appeal was frivolous or vexatious he would be entitled to costs.

Has not the overseer a power to refuse to obey the order of the magistrate, if he chooses to stand the chance of being indicted for it?—Undoubtedly he may. But the justices may impose a penalty upon an overseer of the poor by a summary process without an indictment; a distress may issue upon his goods. If the overseer were to be indicted for disobeying the order of the magistrate, which order the justice was competent to make without being subject to an appeal, I apprehend that the overseer must be found guilty under the indictment, unless it could be shown that the magistrate had acted under the influence of corruption; error would not, in my opinion, suffice. Undoubtedly the magistrates have intended to conduct their proceedings well and wisely. But exemplify this subject by present circumstances: a new commission of the peace has very lately been issued; there are 111 unconsolidated Acts concerning the poor, and 1,788 adjudged cases; surely it cannot be expected that every justice should acquire full knowledge of those. He asks what is the general practice, and reduces his principles of action to a system, without entering into the merits of each case. A man comes and says, "I want relief." "Why do you want relief?" "Because I have no sustenance." "Your wages have been very good; you ought to have provided yourself." "Am I to starve?" "No, you certainly shall not starve; but we shall make no order, because you have stated upon your oath the average amount of your wages, and we can show that they are more than sufficient for your sustenance, and that we could maintain you in the workhouse for a less sum." Then, if he insists upon it, we lend him money; and thus we proceed, step by step, determining every case upon its own merits, and applying the several statutes according to circumstances. But it cannot be expected that any persons who qualify as justices, without studying the general principles of political economy, or the law of the land, should enter successfully into such investigation. Still no man is more sensible than myself of the value resulting to the country from the gratuitous services of the magistrates; but I would not empower them to supersede the authority of select vestries of incorporated guardians.

Would you take such a man into the workhouse?—No; we lend him 10s. or more according to circumstances, and require him to repay it when in his power.

Do you entertain a well-grounded expectation that the money will be repaid?—To illustrate this by a case: there are 111*l.* in the Southwell savings bank, deposited by a common labourer; if that man was not controlled he would come to the parish officer the moment that there was a suspension of labour, and apply for relief; we would make him full back upon his own resources, and we should be sure that money lent him would be repaid. But we are so sure of being repaid by those who have ability so to do, that few borrow money from the overseers of the poor.

In the south a man receiving perhaps 8*s.* a week, and having out of that 8*s.* a week to give 3*l.* or 4*l.* for his cottage, do you think that man has any resources he can fall back upon?—I know what sum the poor can maintain themselves upon. We maintain a man for 2*s.* 8*d.*, a woman for 2*s.*, and a child for 1*s.* 2*d.* per week; which sums severally include apparel. Therefore we say to an applicant for relief, "You can support yourself for the sum of our maintenance and apparel;" this becomes our standard. With regard to cottages, a difference prevails between those in the north and in the south: in the south, the farmers take the cottages with their land, and let off these cottages so as to realize a benefit by what I should call an exorbitant rent. But that is not the practice with us; therefore I should ascertain the number of the family; and so I should make it

a more

a mere question of regular calculation, whether for a man, or his wife, or two or three children. I know at once that every part is 7d. for maintenance, and 1d. for apparel, that is 8d.; and that a man is always called four parts; a woman, three; and a child, two. Therefore I should take for a man, four parts, or 2s. 8d.; for a man and woman together, seven parts, 4s. 8d.; if they have a child, I have to add to the seven parts before mentioned two more parts, amounting to nine parts at 8d. each, or 7s. 4d. So I should know instantaneously what was sufficient for the maintenance of the parties.

Would you think that an isolated individual, who has to purchase his articles in retail, which you can at your poorhouse collect and purchase cheaper by ready money or in the aggregate, can live as cheaply as you can provide for those paupers in the aggregate?—I have given a good deal of time and attention to the maintenance of the poor both in and out of the poorhouse. We have 129 prisoners in the house of correction; they subsist on wheaten bread, which is one of the most expensive kinds of food, besides one pint of milk and two pints of gruel, daily; the cost of which dietary amounts to about 5½d. a head per day, or 3s. 1½d. per week. I believe, from extensive inquiry, that the poor can maintain themselves and their families for as little money as we can in our public establishments; they subsist upon articles which in such institutions do not constitute a part of the dietary. Having heard it repeatedly stated, both in print and in conversation, that the poor were suffering very severely in these times, and it having been stated by Mr. Lowe in his book on the present state of Europe, as well as by Mr. Barton, that from 1742 to 1752 the weekly pay was 6s. and the price of wheat per quarter 30s., and the wages in pints of wheat Winchester measure equalled 102; from 1761 to 1770, that the weekly pay was 7s. 6d., wheat per quarter 42s. 6d., and wages 90 pints; from 1780 to 1790 the weekly pay was 8s., wheat per quarter 51s. 2d., and wages 80 pints; from 1795 to 1799 the weekly pay was 9s., wheat per quarter 70s. 8d., and wages 65 pints; from 1800 to 1808 the weekly pay was 11s., wheat per quarter 86s. 8d., and wages 60 pints: the conclusion was, that the reduction of the labourer's ability had fallen progressively from 102 to 90, from 90 to 80, from 80 to 65, and from 65 to 60. I found, in Mr. Pitt's speech in the House of Commons, in opposition to Mr. Whithread's Bill to regulate the prices of labour, he regretted the circumstance of making wheat the mere standard of human ability, as several other articles had fallen in price. However, I have taken pints of wheat as the standard; and I will show that the poor have more ability now than they had at any former times. I take the returns of wheat as given by Parliament, from 1820 to 1829, and the prices of labour at 12s. or 11s. or 10s. a week. I will state the results to your Lordships for ten years, specifying the pints of wheat which the labourer could purchase, and the pints of wheat in Winchester measure, supposing the weekly wages to be either 12s. or 11s. or 10s. From 1820 to 1824, 110½ pints; 101 pints; 92 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints. From 1825 to 1829, 101 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints; 93 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints; 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ pints. Then the average of ten years, from 1820 to 1829, if weekly wages are 12s. will be 106 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints; whereas a labourer could not have purchased more than 102 pints at any period from 1742 to 1808. Estimating weekly wages at 11s., the proportion would be 93 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints; and if he earns 10s. a week, it will be 88 $\frac{1}{4}$ pints. So that the smallest average quantity purchased weekly has been 88 $\frac{1}{4}$, even by the labourer who receives only 10s. weekly wages, which is considerably below our price of labour in Nottinghamshire, and consequently, according to my reasoning, below the just standard. Therefore the conclusion seems not less clear than satisfactory, that the labourer in the present times may support himself and his family with decency and comfort, if he be not pauperized by an artificial and illegal system.

[The Witness delivers in the Statement; which is read, and is as follows:]

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Rev.
John Thos. Bicker.

14 March 1831.

A STATEMENT in the Pamphlet of Mr. Barton on the Condition of the Labouring Classes, showing the Proportion between the Wages of Husbandry and the Prices of Corn during the last 70 Years.

PERIODS.	Weekly Pay.	Wheat, per Quarter.	Wages in Pints of Wheat.
	s. d.	s. d.	Whester Measure.
1742 to 1762 - - -	6 -	30 -	102
1761 to 1770 - - -	7 6	42 6	90
1780 to 1790 - - -	8 -	51 s	80
1795 to 1799 - - -	9 -	70 8	65
1800 to 1808 - - -	11 -	86 8	60

PROPORTION between the Prices of Agricultural Labour and Corn from 1820 to 1829.

PERIODS.	Weekly Pay.	Price.	Pints of Wheat.	
	s. d.	s. d. £.	Imp. Measure.	Whech. Measure.
1820 to 1824 - - -	11 -	57 2 = 2,858	107 4	110 5
1820 to 1824 - - -	11 -	57 2 = 2,858	98 9	101 0
1820 to 1824 - - -	10 -	57 2 = 2,858	89 5	92 s
1825 to 1829 - - -	12 -	62 1 = 3,104	98 5	101 6
1825 to 1829 - - -	11 -	62 1 = 3,104	90 7	93 4
1825 to 1829 - - -	10 -	62 1 = 3,104	82 4	84 9
Average of 10 Years 12s. Weekly Wages -			102 9	106 1
Average of 10 Years 11s. Weekly Wages -			90 4	93 s
Average of 10 Years 10s. Weekly Wages -			85 9	88 5

That is a much higher estimate of wages than they have in the south; 6 s., 7 s. and 8 s. having been the payment in some of the counties?—Mr. Barton takes from 100 to 108. I am convinced that the poor were never doing so well as they are now, when they receive their just hire. In the south, wages are not allowed to rise to their proper level.

You conceive that according to the prices of labour and the prices of the necessities of life now, and 10 or 20 years ago, a poor man can maintain himself with greater comfort than he did 10 or 20 years ago?—I think I have demonstrated this in figures, and much to the disadvantage of the calculation; because 20 years ago apparel was much higher than it is now, and my calculations have been made in wheat.

Considering the diminution of the price of salt, the price of beer, and other articles?—Yes; I consider that the poor are better off than they were in former times. The reduction in the price of the several articles above stated, renders the calculation still more in favour of the labourer. I will now venture to fortify such opinions as I may have given upon the Poor Laws, by citing a few lines from a speech of Mr. Pitt on Mr. Whitbread's Bill. Mr. Pitt says, "That he should wish that an opportunity were given of restoring the original purity of the Poor Laws, and of removing those corruptions by which they have been obscured; he was convinced that the evils which they had occasioned did not arise out of their original constitution, but coincided with the opinion of Blackstone, that in proportion as the wise regulations that were established in the long and glorious reign of Queen Elizabeth had been superseded by subsequent enactments, the utility of the institution had been impaired, and the benevolence of the plan rendered fruitless."

It was the opinion of Mr. Pitt that the poor should be encouraged to increase?—Mr. Malthus had not broached his doctrine till the latter part of Mr. Pitt's time;

time; and notwithstanding the speech of Mr. Pitt, which lays down the soundest principles of political economy, the Bill brought in by Mr. Pitt was quite at variance with his own principles; but the Bill was framed by Mr. Rose, and adapted to his particular opinions respecting what he calls houses of industry or schools of industry. We have schools of industry, but only for teaching the children of paupers to read, knit and sew. Supernumerary children are so schooled at Southwell during the winter months, and fed, but they return regularly to their parents at night.

Do you think that the clothing of the labourers, particularly the women, is comparatively so much cheaper as it is represented to be; do not you conceive that the stuffs which were worn in former times were more substantial, and gave them more warmth, and were far more durable than the cotton wear of the present day?—They were more durable, and they possessed another advantage, they were manufactured more by themselves; therefore, when the children attend at our parish school, besides teaching them to read, and giving them religious and moral instruction, we teach them to knit and sew, by which means they are enabled to knit their own stockings. But with respect to the question of apparel, I can speak with precision as to the cost of such articles; because we purchase at our workhouse a stock of apparel; in fact we trade in apparel. We can afford to clothe a child for 2 d. a week; a woman for 3 d. a week; and a man for 4 d. a week; and so sufficient have these sums proved, that if our whole stock of apparel were destroyed we have money in hand.

How would you propose to deal with the 36 Geo. 3?—The alteration I proposed was, that under a suspended order of removal the parish to which the pauper is removed should be liable to discharge every expense incurred during suspension, except medical attendance and medicine; because it is customary to contract parochially with a surgeon and apothecary. Therefore, the account should be attached to the order of removal, after having been signed by two justices; and then, whatever the amount of that account was, the parish required to pay it should be allowed to appeal, if it was thought advisable so to do. I think every person or parish charged with any sum of money is entitled to an account how the charges have arisen. If I were to give an unrestricted opinion respecting the Poor Laws, I would sweep off the statute book all Acts concerning relief or settlement subsequent to the statute of Elizabeth passed in the 43d year of her reign. Adverting to parochial expenditure, I beg to state, that a parish rate for the relief of the poor must be signed by two magistrates. It was for a long time supposed that the magistrates were invested with a discretionary authority, and that they acted on such occasions judicially; but it has been decided that they act ministerially, and that a magistrate is compellable to sign any parish rate that may be presented to him; which subjects the parish to the expense of 2 s. for signing the rate, besides the expense of attendance, which I cannot estimate lower than 2 s., amounting jointly to 4 s. Now, as the parishes and townships in England exceed 10,000, therefore this creates an expense of 2,000 l. for one rate for every parish; and if the annual average number of rates is assumed to be four for each parish, 8,000 l. a year is thus uselessly thrown away, for the mere purpose of authentication. Surely it is sufficient to have the rates signed by the parish officers, and published in the church. There is another way in which money is uselessly expended: when precepts are issued to parishes for a return of lunatics, two justices are required to sign every precept, so that this imposes 20,000 shillings, or 1,000 l. upon the parishes. All which would be avoided if the magistrates were, as in the highway rate, only to sign a general precept to the several chief constables, instead of issuing a precept to every parish directing the chief constables to issue their precepts to the same effect; because the chief constables charge for the delivery of the justices' precept the same as if they were to issue their own precept. All these things tend unnecessarily to increase the parochial expense.

Have you turned your attention to friendly societies, and their effect on the morals of the poor?—I conceive that the wages of a labourer should be sufficient to support him, not only in health, but in sickness and in old age; but to require even a person of good character to appropriate sufficiently towards maintaining himself during the casualties of sickness or the decrepitude of old age, is, perhaps, imposing upon him a greater task than he may be able or inclined to execute. Finding that friendly societies had never been formed on sound principles, I believe I was the first in this kingdom to investigate the ratio of sickness, and to investigate the quantity prevailing among several thousand persons; but my

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result produced a ratio of sickness that differed very widely from Mr. Finlayson's. He has since published, in the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons on Annuities, the result of his subsequent inquiries, and we come so near, that my excess of sickness, above Mr. Finlayson's, experienced annually by 35 persons, taking one person at every age from 20 to 55, is only five hours 51 minutes and 17 seconds in a year for each individual. I likewise devised a new principle for those societies, which was, that instead of being managed as they had heretofore been by the poor, they should be managed by those who were wholly disinterested, in the same manner nearly as savings banks. Honorary members are mixed up with others; but the honorary members retain their just share of influence. I introduced another improvement, enabling a member, when he has acquired a sum of money, to purchase his assurances, by redeeming either the whole or a part of his monthly contributions; the consequence is, that several of our members have purchased their assurances. There has been paid by different members more than 700*l.* for redemption, in part or in whole. These members are secured, without any further contributions, against sickness and old age, against the expense attending upon their funeral, and when they come to 65, they have each a regular annuity; so that these members are placed beyond the reach of pauperism. We provide medical attendance for the members; men, women and children, are admissible; and no meetings are held at a public-house. Such a system I conceive to be the most advantageous that can be adopted for the benefit of the poor. In many counties throughout the kingdom, in various parts, this system has been adopted. In Hampshire, in Devonshire, north and east, in Worcestershire, in Wiltshire, and different other parts, very extensively. The tables are always kept standing by the printer, that they may be furnished by him on reduced terms to the different societies. Before I ventured to assume that my calculations were correct, I submitted them to my friend Mr. William Morgan, the eminent actuary of the Equitable Society; and I am happy to add, that from the beginning to the end, we have never had a difference of opinion upon any subject. In respect of savings banks, I devised and prepared a table by which we should be enabled to calculate the interest of any saving bank. The interest allowed by most of the saving banks is 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* computed upon 15*s.* The system I devised enables them to pay interest on every 5*s.*, and to give the full rate of interest. The system depends briefly on this: say that 5 per cent. yields an interest of 1*s.* in the pound annually; 1*s.* on the pound is 1*d.* per month; 1*d.* per month on the pound is $\frac{1}{12}$ *d.* on 15*s.*; $\frac{1}{12}$ *d.* on 10*s.*; $\frac{1}{12}$ *d.* on 5*s.* Therefore we compute all our interest money in this manner, at 5 per cent., and effect it by inspection; then by a single and simple operation we reduce the interest money from 5 per cent. to 3*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.*, being the highest rate allowable by such institutions.

How do you reduce your interest from five per cent.?—We compute it at five per cent.; if you compute any sum of money at five per cent. you merely assume the shillings in that interest to be equal to any number of pounds in the table, and then convert it. At first I purchased a book which cost 12*s.* and was very complicated, so that I was induced to devise a more simple and practical process. 100*l.* yields 3*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* per cent. being the utmost limit allowed now. If it were five per cent. it would yield 100*s.* or 5*l.*; then look opposite the number on 100, here it is, 3*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* If your Lordship were to ask me what is the interest of 36*l.* for a month, if it were required, I would say at once 36*l.* per month is 36*d.*, and consequently 36*d.* is 3*s.* I find opposite number 3, that 2*s.* 0*d.* is the interest sought. I have likewise originated very recently a society which may perhaps be entitled to a little attention, since it occurred on reading the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, of which Lord Milton was chairman. It was contemplated by that Committee that Government might possibly be induced to grant an increased rate of interest in favour of annuity societies for the working classes. However, Government was not inclined to do so. I therefore devised a system for the poor, which I call a system of endowment; it is shortly this: you may endow a person with any sum of money, to be paid at any time, or with any annuity, to commence at any time and to continue for any time, on paying either a single sum or a contribution, annual or monthly; and that the annual sum payable may be reduced even as low as one halfpenny. If a poor man wants to put out his son an apprentice, he may come to us when he is born. If he proposes to place the boy out as an apprentice, at 14, he comes and says, "I shall want 10*l.* for my son at the age of 14." We say, you must give us 12*s.* 5*d.* for every

pound,

pound, at present, or you may pay us 1*s.* 1*2d.* for every pound; which yearly contributions we afterwards divide into monthly contributions, to make it easier; or, if you wish, when your son is 14 years of age, to give him an annuity for the next five years during his apprenticeship, you may realize that annuity by paying us down now 2*l.* 16*s.* 9*d.* for every pound, or 5*s.* 1*2d.* I have opened an account with the National Debt Office, and our capital is deposited in exactly the same manner as the stock of friendly societies or of savings banks, the whole being invested upon Government security. Thus we bring to the door of every cottager the system of endowment, and further of life annuities, or of annuities for years certain; for if they purchase an annuity from us for years certain, which is larger than 30*l.* a year, we cover ourselves by purchasing a correspondent annuity in the Bank of England, so as to secure it for them. I thought that as we had done so much for the poor, a society of this kind might meet, not only their necessities, but the circumstances of farmers or persons above that class, depending upon life incomes; therefore I have embodied, with various modifications of my own, that system which Lord Milton seemed to recommend in his Report. We have had applications to a very considerable amount. Friendly societies are founded upon the doctrine of chances; a saving bank is established on the principles of certainty, but does not enter into annuities, nor into deferred payments. Our endowment society combines to a certain extent the objects both of friendly societies and of savings banks; moreover, it possesses this peculiar feature, that no member can enter into this endowment society, so as to assure any benefit, unless it is either continued or deferred for at least five successive years; consequently, the principle of the society is intended to encourage forethought and frugality.

Is that undertaking at all dependent on the life of the individual?—The death of the individual does not involve any loss of the sum deposited, for every payment to this institution must be returned to the representatives of a deceased member, together with compound interest at the rate of 5*l.* 8*s.* 5*d.* per cent. on every farthing deposited, computing from the day on which the sums may have been severally deposited, which is a benefit that cannot be realized in a savings bank. The tables which have been computed for this society are copious and original.

Have you found that the tables upon which you originally proceeded were either too high?—In my tables for friendly societies I have made little or no alteration, except such as was required in consequence of the diminution in the rate of interest allowed by Government; the rate of interest originally granted was 4*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*; now, with an exception of certain societies, it has been reduced to 3*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.*; consequently the tables have been proportionably advanced for those societies. The former tables were supplied at four per cent., with a quinquennial graduation of the ages; the present tables are calculated only at three and a half per cent., with an annual graduation of the ages.

Are you of opinion that it would be of considerable advantage if the restrictions which limit the total amount of deposits in savings banks to 150*l.* and forbid any interest being paid when it amounts to 200*l.*, were removed?—I know the state of our own savings banks, and the state of nearly all the savings banks in the kingdom; the progression of the deposits is strictly in what I conceive the most desirable line, that is, the large depositors are all diminishing, and the small depositors are all increasing, so that the number of depositors is becoming greater, while the average amount of each deposit is becoming less. Moreover, I certify my own investigations by stating, that I have held conversation with John Todd Pratt, Esquire, the barrister at law appointed to inspect the rules of savings banks. Since I came to London our savings bank received a letter circular from the Brighton bank, proposing that we should unite in an application to Government for to permit an advance upon the amount of the sum which each person is now empowered to deposit; but I directed an answer to be written, signifying, that in our judgment such an alteration of the law would be a disadvantage to the country, because at present the money, after accumulation to a certain amount, passes into circulation and produces public benefit, whereas in the saving bank the capital deposited is fixed, and productive only to the extent of the interest withdrawn.

Do you think the establishment of a select vestry under Mr. Bourne's Act has worked beneficially?—It has always been my wish to transact whatever is done under the inspection of the public, consequently, we have not in our district a

127. I. I select

Rev.
John Thos. Brooker.
14 March 1831.

Rev.
John Tison, Broker.
14 March 1831.

select vestry; but I know that in some instances very valuable and judicious men have instituted select vestries. However, some have declined, and the moment they found the magistrates interfered with them. I think that if the interference of the magistrates were done away, the select vestries would work well in places where public vestries might prove unmanageable.

Are you aware that the establishment of the select vestries was to limit the power of the magistrates?—I am. But this intent was nullified by the second section, empowering any two justices to decide whether the select vestry had refused adequate relief, which completely supersedes the judgment of the select vestry, who should be the best judges of whether the relief tendered was or was not adequate.

You are not of opinion that it would be advisable to repeal the Select Vestry Act?—No; because, though there are persons acting under it who may have been inconvenienced, there are others who have not sustained any unpleasant interruption in the discharge of their duty. It can do no harm if it does no good. My opinion is, the management of the poor and the amelioration of their condition do not depend upon any single specific, but upon the concurrent use and operation of various modes and means; consequently I am disposed rather to extend than to contract the sphere of practicable utility.

You are aware that under the Select Vestry Act the power over agricultural labourers is completely vested in their employers?—It is; but in case of wilful misconduct they are indictable, and must be annually re-appointed by the justices.

It is your opinion that the employers have exercised their discretion under the Select Vestry Act discreetly?—I have not an instance within my knowledge of a Select Vestry Act in operation among our parishes; we conduct all parochial concerns at Southwell and in its neighbourhood by open vestry. I beg leave to place upon the table of your Lordships my system of parish book-keeping, which, from long and extensive practice, I can strongly recommend; it is very simple, and perfectly satisfactory. The books are four in number: a register, to contain the names and circumstances of every pauper; a day book; a weekly pay book; a ledger. I also venture to present the following publications for the benefit of the working classes, which I have directed to be printed: The Constitution of Friendly Societies, fifth edition; A System of Book-keeping for Savings' Banks; A System of Endowments.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Martis, 15 Martii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. Francis Joseph Faithful, is called in; and Examined, as follows:

Rev.
Francis J. Faithful.
14 March 1831.

YOU are the clergyman of the parish of Hatfield?—I am.

How long have you been so?—Since the year 1812.

Do you act as a magistrate for the county of Hertford?—I do.

Have you attended to the administration of the Poor Laws in that parish?—I have.

Do you recollect the state of the parish about the year 1812?—I do.

Can you state what the rates were at that time?—They varied at that time from six rates to eight rates in the year, shilling rates.

At what valuation?—At three-fifths of the valuation.

Was that an old valuation?—A valuation made in the year 1808.

Has any alteration been introduced into their management?—An entire alteration was made in that year.

Can you state what has been the difference between the rates for the last 10 years, and the previous 10 years?—About 14,000*l.* in the 10 years.

Were there many persons out of employment at the time of the alteration?—A great many.

Can you state the principal measures which were taken to introduce this alteration in the administration of the law?—I think the most effectual was denying relief to all persons out of the workhouse.

Will you state the principal regulations under which the law is administered?—The principal one was, that no pension or permanent allowance shall be granted to any person, except in case of sickness. It was previously the custom to allow weekly relief to widows and to aged persons out of the house.

Was it also the practice to give relief to persons on account of the number of their families?—Yes, it was.

Has that since been forbidden?—It has.

Under what conditions can persons now receive relief for the number of their family?—The parish will receive one or two of the children into the house as an assistance to them.

Has that, in point of fact, often occurred?—Not in any instance with any large families. In the case of widows it has sometimes occurred, but not in any case where the father and mother had both been living. I would add, that in consequence of that regulation, the permanent relief, which in the year 1818, amounted to 1,100*l.*, is now reduced to below 300*l.* in the year.

Will you have the goodness to read the regulations relating to the administration of relief to the poor?—"No pension or permanent allowance shall be granted henceforth to any person out of the workhouse. All persons who shall have been established as pensioners before the commencement of this system, shall sit at the first meetings of the select vestry next after Michaelmas and Lady-days. All pensioners who shall not attend, or who shall not give a reasonable excuse for non-attendance, shall forfeit their pension. The workhouse shall be made sufficient to receive all persons whom the select vestry shall deem fit objects for admission. No relief shall be given to any person on account of the number of his or her family, except by the admission of one or more of the children, as may seem fit to the select vestry, into the workhouse. No relief shall be granted to any person residing beyond the limits of the attendance of the parish apothecary who shall not bring or send a certificate of his or her illness, signed by the churchwarden or overseer of the place where he or she reside, or by a respectable medical man in the neighbourhood. All relief shall be given in provisions or necessaries, except by special order of the select vestry, when the reason of their order shall be entered in their minutes. Relief out of the workhouse shall be given only in cases of sickness and infirmity, with the following exceptions: when the child of a parishioner has been placed in service out of the parish, and is approved of by his master, he may be clothed at the expense of the parish in such manner as the select vestry may deem fit; any sum not exceeding 5*s.*, in provisions or necessaries, may be given to women in their confinement, in lieu of providing a midwife, when the select vestry may deem it necessary; compensation, at the discretion of the select vestry, may be made to persons attending others in sickness; the expenses of funerals may be defrayed by the parish; widows or families may, at the discretion of the select vestry, receive relief out of the workhouse for one month after the death of the master of the family, but no longer. Every case of application for relief, whether granted or refused, shall be entered into the vestry book, with the cause of such application. A list shall be made out annually of all persons who have received parish relief, stating their residence, and the amount which they have each of them received; and copies shall be affixed to the church doors, in large and legible characters, on the Sunday immediately after the passing of the annual accounts. The family of a person sent to goal for any crime or misdemeanour, or under suspicion of the same, shall not be relieved except by admission into the workhouse."

Was there any difficulty in rendering the workhouse sufficient for the purposes?

—No, there was not.

Rev.
Francis J. Faithful.
15 March 1831.

Do you, as far as you have seen other workhouses, believe that it would be impossible to introduce nearly the same system generally?—I should think the same system might be introduced very well. In fact, it has been adopted in several parishes within the last few years. In the parish of Welwyn they have lately built a poorhouse, and have adopted the same system.

Would the erection of a poorhouse be an objection in small or poor parishes?—Not where they unite.

Are any parishes united with you at Hatfield?—No; that is a very large parish; but the adjoining parishes of Little Berkhamstead, Bayford, and Hattingsford Bury, have united.

Do you consider the same system as applicable to country parishes as it is to towns?—Yes, I should think it was.

Do you consider Hatfield a country parish?—A country parish, decidedly. The town is a very small part of the parish.

Of what acres does the parish consist?—Fourteen thousand acres.

What was the population according to the last return?—Three thousand two hundred and sixteen.

Is not a considerable portion of the parish in woodland?—There are some very large woodlands. I should think, on a rough calculation, 4,000 acres of wood, exclusive of the park of Hatfield House.

With regard to the distribution of lodging room in the workhouse, has any part of the workhouse been assimilated very much to barracks?—The rooms for the men and for the boys have been.

Do you conceive that a great deal of room is gained by this arrangement?—Certainly.

How is the workhouse divided?—Into women's rooms, men's rooms, and children's rooms, and rooms for the sick.

Are they divided also in the day rooms?—They are all divided in the day rooms.

Will you have the goodness to put in the form of accounts which is kept in the parish.

[The Witness delivers in the same, which is read, and is as follows:]

GENERAL

By
James J. Knight
of Bishop's Cleeve

Parish rated on a Valuation of Dwellings of Rent £100.				Week ending	Number of Persons	Weeks	Number of Persons	Relief for Sickness	Number of Persons	Persons Weekly Alleviated	Number of Persons	Paid for Lodging	Total of Weekly Expenditure
Rate at 1 s. 6d. per Pound.						£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rate when granted.	Total of Ratable Rates.	Amount not Rated.	Exempts										
Quarterly rated.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.										
Total Number of Relief				Number of Days.									

YEARLY ACCOUNTS.

	Receipts.	Workhouse.	Relief for Sickness.	Permanent Weekly Allowance.	Labour.	Miscellaneous Charges.	* Total of Expenditure.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
First Quarter							
Second Quarter							
Third Quarter							
Fourth Quarter							
Deduct Receipts - -							
Balance - - -							

Have

DIET TABLE of Hatfield Poorhouse

Francis J. Raitfal.

15 March 1831.

Days of the Week.	Men, for Breakfast.	Women, for Breakfast.	Children, for Breakfast.	Men, for Dinner.	Women, for Dinner.	Children, for Dinner.
Monday -	At Work. -- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bread & 4 oz. of cheese is taken with them each day for breakfast and dinner. Those at home, milk porridge.	-- 1 lb. of bread per day, 1 oz. of tea, $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of butter, & $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. sugar, for breakfast and dinner, each day.	-- milk porridge.	-- bread and cheese.	-- tea, bread and butter.	-- bread and cheese.
Tuesday -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -
Wednesday -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -
Thursday -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -
Friday -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -
Saturday -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -	- ditto -
Sunday -	-- milk porridge for all the men, there being none at work.	- ditto -	- ditto -	-- 8 oz. of meat, with potatoes and other vegetables.	-- 8 oz. of meat, with potatoes and other vegetables.	-- 8 oz. of meat, with potatoes and other vegetables.

N. B.—Prisoners superintending, washing and cleaning the house, with those who are very old and infirm.

Have you heard of any difficulty in the management of the poor in the workhouse?—Not any.

Can you state the usual number there have been for the last year?—They average about 110.

Do they earn anything towards their support?—The children all earn sufficient for their support, and the old men upon the roads.

Can you, from the account before you, state what the earnings in the workhouse were the last three years?—In the year ending March 1829 they were 182*l.* 10*s.*; in the year ending March 1830 they were 90*l.* 9*s.*; and in the present year ending 1831, 188*l.* 13*s.* 7*d.*

Can you state what was the total expense in the workhouse during those three years?—The account is not made up to March 1831. In the year ending March 1829 it was 966*l.* 14*s.* 9½*d.*; in the year ending March 1830, 938*l.* 9*s.* 9*d.*

Can you state the average expense per week for each person?—About 3*s.* 1*d.* or 3*s.* 2*d.*, including their food and clothing.

Does that include the firing and other expenses of the house?—It includes every expense of the house.

Is that the average of men, women and children?—Yes.

Can you put in the diet table in the workhouse?—I can.

[The Witness delivers in the same, which is read, and is as follows:]

for each Meal throughout the Week.

Men for Supper.	Women, for Supper.	Children, for Supper.	Men.		Women.	
			1st Class.	3d Class.	1st Class.	3d Class.
-- peas or rice soup.	-- peas or rice soup.	-- peas or rice soup.	Full allowance.	Meat only on Sunday.	Full allowance.	Tea, sugar, and butter suspended, during the pleasure of the select vestry.
-- 8 oz. of meat, with potatoes and other vegetables.	-- 8 oz. of meat, with potatoes and other vegetables.	-- 8 oz. of meat, with potatoes and other vegetables.				
-- peas or rice soup.	-- peas or rice soup.	-- peas or rice soup.				
-- 8 oz. of meat, with potatoes and other vegetables.	-- 8 oz. of meat, with potatoes and other vegetables.	-- 8 oz. of meat, with potatoes and other vegetables.				
-- peas or rice soup.	-- peas or rice soup.	-- peas or rice soup.				
-- ditto	-- ditto	-- ditto.				
-- bread and cheese.	-- tea, bread, and butter.	-- bread and cheese.				

are allowed etc. Men a pint, and women a half pint; the other parties have a pint of table beer per diem.

Rev.
Francis J. Faithful.
15 March 1831.

In practice, is the allowance you have stated found sufficient for their wants?—Quite sufficient; though perhaps I ought to state they are not confined to that allowance; at their dinner, in point of meat, they are allowed always to eat as much as they like.

Do they ever exceed the allowance?—I should think that many of them do; but, upon the average, it is not exceeded: they are never restricted, they are allowed to eat as much as they like. The provision is made according to this rate; but in the number there are a great many who do not eat the quantity; I we find that, on the average, quite sufficient for them all.

Is there generally a good deal left?—There is.

In that expense is the board of the master of the workhouse and his family included?—It is included at the expense of 3*s.* 1*d.* per head; the master, and his wife and family, are included in that.

You mean that you allow 3*s.* 1*d.* for their maintenance?—Yes; the whole number is taken.

Do they board with the others?—No, they do not: they live differently; they live better, certainly.

You have stated that in the year ending March 1830 the earnings were much smaller than the two other years you have mentioned; can you state from what cause that arose?—In consequence of the silk work being stopped.

Will you state the nature of the silk work?—The children are merely employed to superintend the winding of the silk from the skein on the bobbin, and to attend in tying it when it is broken.

How is that manufacture carried on, by whom?—By Mr. Woolam, who is the proprietor of silk mills at St. Albans.

On what terms does he carry on that manufacture?—On condition of employing all the poor children in the house, and, if he wants more, employing those who belong to the parish.

Do the parish give him the use of a shed for that purpose?—Yes.

All the other expenses fall upon him?—Yes.

In the year that that silk manufacture was stopped, had that a particular effect upon the poor rates, in increasing them, or in diminishing the comforts of the poor?—I am not aware that it had a very material effect.

What persons besides children are in the workhouse?—Principally old men and women; some few women who have been left by their husbands, and who are there with their families.

Are there more of those than are sufficient to carry on the necessary work of the house?—Not more; sometimes not sufficient.

How are the old men employed?—They are employed on the parish roads.

At what rate of wages?—At 4*s.* or 4*s.* 6*d.* per week.

You have stated that there were a great number of persons 10 years ago out of employ; have there been many out of employment during the last year?—We average, during the winter months, from 90 to 100 out of employment, except that the Marquis of Salisbury employed 40 or 50 of them in planting; they are persons who are thrown upon the parish at the commencement of winter: we generally have 90 or 100 persons thrown upon the parish for work.

Have you not frequently heard complaints made, that the men so thrown out of work were of such bad character that no person would take them on, except in cases of absolute necessity?—A great proportion of them are persons who never have any regular work with the farmers, but are employed during the haytime and the harvest, when they are sure to find work, and at the end of those periods they come on the parish.

Are those who are thrown out of work occupiers of cottages within the parish, with pieces of land attached to those cottages?—No; I am sorry to say we have very few of that description. We have very few cottages with more than a small garden; a great many have not any garden at all.

Are all those cottages where there are no gardens rented from the farmer, or from the proprietor?—From proprietors; principally carpenters, and persons of that description, who get possession of a little land, and build up a number of cottages together.

Do they build those cottages on a speculation of profit?—Decidedly so.

At very high rents?—Very high rents indeed.

What are the usual rents?—I should say from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per week, without any land at all attached to them; and in some instances I know poor people who

at this moment give 2s. a week for nothing more than a little lean-to to another house.

Supposing those cottages had not been built, would not the poor have been distressed for habitations?—Yes; they could not have had them.

Has it come to your knowledge, that any person of good character within the last few years has been for any length of time out of employment?—No, certainly not.

Is it your opinion that there is sufficient employment within the parish for the whole population?—Certainly, there is sufficient employment upon the land, if the farmers had capital to employ them, and more than sufficient employment for them. I am satisfied that if the farmers were able to employ the whole in doing the necessary work of their farms, to keep them up in a proper state, we should not have one man out of employment.

Do you mean to say, that the due cultivation of land, if a farmer could afford it, would furnish them with sufficient employment?—For them all.

With a sufficient remuneration for the expense so incurred?—Yes; work that they would gladly now do.

The farmers not having capital, they are not so employed?—They are not.

The Marquis of Salisbury employs many in that parish?—Yes; of the 90 or 100 who came upon the parish for work, Lord Salisbury employed 40 or 50 during the winter.

Were it not for the aid of that employment afforded by his Lordship, they would be thrown out of employment?—Yes.

Supposing his Lordship not to have employed those persons in the winter, would not they have been thrown upon the poor's rate of the parish?—They would have been thrown upon the parish for employment.

Has not the population of the place grown up on the supposed necessity of a large number of persons being employed from Hatfield House, and with that constant demand for them in the winter months?—Certainly, the population has so increased.

Averaging that proportion of the population of the parish who are employed by other persons than Lord Salisbury, with that which is employed by Lord Salisbury himself, should you say there would be sufficient employment for the population of the parish if that part of the parish occupied by Lord Salisbury was occupied in the same manner as the other parts of the parish?—I should say there would be sufficient employment for them all.

Would that be the case, according to the present mode of cultivating lands in that parish, supposing Hatfield Park now thrown into farm, and that the people had no employment through Lord Salisbury's assistance; would there be, in the manner in which the farms are now cultivated in that parish, sufficient employment for the poor?—I think not, as they are now cultivated there; for the last few years the land has not been cultivated by farmers as it would be for their own interest.

Why do you think it has not been cultivated by farmers as it would be for their own interest?—Because the farmers have not capital.

To what is the diminution of capital to be attributed; to profligacy on their part, or what?—I think to the difficulties which have attended the farmers the last few years.

To what is that owing?—To the reduced price of the produce of the land of every description.

And the increased rate of the poor's rates?—No; poor's rates have diminished.

The diminution of the price of produce has been such as to take that remuneration from the farmers which would enable them to employ a sufficient number of hands?—Yes; there is some land which now produces no return to the farmer.

Would that, in former years, have produced some return to the farmer?—Yes.

How long ago?—Within my own recollection; I have been there for 19 years.

Within 19 years that land might have been cultivated with profit to the farmer?—Yes.

That is turned out of cultivation?—I cannot say it is turned out of cultivation; it is turned back almost to sheep-walk.

Was that old cultivated land, or the subject of new cultivation?—Some of it old land, and some which had been newly cultivated.

Rev.
Francis J. Faithful.
15 March 1831.

If there was sufficient capital laid out upon that land to bring it into a proper state of cultivation, in your opinion would it now produce a sufficient return to the farmer?—In my opinion it would not to that particular land.

In reference to the answer you gave, stating that there was sufficient perpetual employment for all the labourers in the parish, did you state that from your own opinion, or from the information of farmers who have communicated that to you?—From the information of the farmers. I asked them at my last tithes dinner, where I met them in great numbers, that question, whether, if they had capital enabling them to employ the whole, they would have employment for all residing or belonging to the parish. They said, yes; and they went further: they said they should be very glad, if the landlord would advance the money, to pay an additional rent for the money so advanced, from a conviction that it would improve their land.

Is it within your knowledge that a farmer in the parish has laid out considerable sums upon his land, the money being advanced by his landlord, and he paying an interest of five per cent. in addition to his rent?—One farmer has done so.

Was that farm supposed to be of very indifferent quality?—Yes.

What, in your opinion, is the present state of it?—I think it is very much improved, and perhaps as productive as any in the immediate neighbourhood.

At the present prices, is it likely to remunerate the man who has expended the money?—I think it is, after the improvements made upon the farm by draining, &c.

At the present prices, would the farmers be likely to be remunerated, supposing they could prevail upon their landlords to lend that capital so employed on the improvement of the farms?—Yes, I think it would in the best, but not inferior lands.

Would they be able, upon the average of prices of the last three years?—If it would remunerate them at all, it would remunerate them with that additional expense.

As the prices have been during the last four years, would they stand any chance of being remunerated?—No, I do not think they would, on the inferior lands.

Do you not think that this additional capital would only delay for a greater time the ruin which was impending?—No, I cannot think that; for I still think, that, whatever the prices may be, every improvement of the land would give them a greater probability of success.

The land wanted draining and manuring in the case you referred to?—Yes.

Do you know whether the farmer to whom you alluded has paid the interest on the capital?—He pays the interest regularly.

Do you suppose that that individual to whom capital has been thus advanced is making sufficient profit upon his farm?—I think he is.

Have you had any reason for thinking that others, if placed in the same situation, would not equally have a chance of obtaining fair returns?—I think that many of the others would. I think, in most cases, it would be so beneficial to them that they would be remunerated.

Even at the average prices of produce during the last four years?—Yes.

That there would be a profitable return for the capital so expended?—I think there would, except on the inferior lands.

Taking the prices and crops of the last four years?—Yes.

Do you conceive they would be remunerated at the average prices and crops of the four last years, taking them both together?—No, certainly not.

Do you conceive this farmer to be a man of above the average intellects and manners of the generality of farmers?—I should say that I think he is a very industrious, very frugal man; he works himself with his labourers, and I think if any farmer can succeed he would. I should think he is a very good practical farmer, but nothing beyond that in point of intellects.

If farming is to go on in the way it has lately, will not those who have capital soon be without any?—I am afraid so.

In point of fact, has it not come to your knowledge that lists of labourers out of employment in your parish has been looked over, and complaint made that there was not one whom any individual would trust?—Yes; some that I could not trust, and others that I do not think could do a day's work, of the 30 or 40 out of employment.

Now is employment provided for the 30 or 40 in that situation?—One way is, taking

taking up the docks or the roots of trees, which we have done many winters to a considerable extent.

On whose account is that done?—On account of the parish. The wood is taken up, clipped and stacked, and then sold for firing.

Are they sent on other person's land to do that?—Latterly in Lord Melbourne's park, who is very glad to have the roots taken up; he receives 3 s. a stack for the wood, the labourer is paid 8 s. a stack for taking them up, and they are sold again at 10 s. 11 s. and 12 s. a stack on account of the parish.

So that if there is any loss it is a trifling one?—I should say there has been no loss upon it ever since it has been adopted.

Is there much employment upon the roads?—Yes, considerable employment upon the roads, and in digging gravel for the roads, and for the trust also, for the turnpike road.

Can you state in what manner the persons are employed upon the roads, whether by the piece or by the day?—All under 50 years of age are employed by the piece; those above 50 are employed by the day.

Can you state what extent of road there is in the parish kept in repair?—I think 42 miles.

Independently of the trust?—Yes, parish roads.

Some of those roads are roads of very great traffic, are they not?—Yes.

Can you state the expense at which those roads are kept in a proper state of repair?—I can, by reference to the stone warden's rate; the stone warden's rate is at the average of nine-pence in the pound.

Can you state the amount of that last year?—Three hundred and seventy-two pounds.

Has any other means of employment been resorted to for the labourers thrown upon the parish?—The parish hired 20 acres of land, which they held for two years.

How were those 20 acres of land cultivated?—Partly by spade, and partly by the plough.

Were they cultivated at a considerable loss, or to a profit?—To a loss of about 10 l. in the two years.

What employment did they furnish?—They furnished employment for all the persons whom we had out of work during three months.

On what account was the hiring that 20 acres of land given up?—I believe because it was found to be too large a quantity.

Is any land now hired?—Five acres.

Is that found sufficient for the purposes of employing the labourers at particular seasons of the year?—No; the labourers are never employed on that, or very seldom indeed, except the poor of the workhouse.

What rent did they pay for that land?—Two pounds an acre for that five acres.

You mentioned that the cottagers had no gardens, generally speaking; do you think the persons in question would be better content if small portions of land, according to the capacity of the individual, were allotted to them?—I have no doubt they would; so much so that we have commenced this year allotting land to the poor.

Do you think it would be an injury to occupying tenements if certain portions of land were taken out of the farms to be so applied?—Not any at all.

You mentioned that the population in the parish of Hatfield is 3,216; are they all parishioners, or are there some of them strangers, attracted by the hope of employment from the chief proprietor or other benevolent persons in the winter?

—I should say none attracted by any motive of that kind. There are some of them who do not belong to the parish, but they are good labourers, who have been employed by the farmer, and who have been continued in the employment for many years, and who still are anxious to employ them, because they do not like to part with good men.

You have tried the experiment of spade husbandry; from that experiment do you think it likely to be employed profitably, so as to give labour to the poor?—I do.

To a great extent?—Not to any great extent; so far as the poor will take it themselves.

If it increases the quantity of produce must it not diminish the price?—Certainly.

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You state that the increase of produce will diminish the price; if it answers the purpose of improving the condition of the labouring people, will not that produce a greater consumption as well as a greater produce?—Certainly.

Therefore it may tend to raise the price, if the consumption increases above the ratio of the production?—If the consumption increases above the ratio of the production, I should conceive it would, certainly.

You state that this land is let at 2*l.* an acre; if that were cultivated in the ordinary manner of cultivation in Hatfield parish, what would be the produce of wheat?—I should think that land well cultivated would produce 25 bushels.

Do you conceive that is the ordinary production which land does afford now it is cultivated?—No, not the land in the parish generally.

What is the ordinary produce?—I should say it varies from 15 to 25 bushels. Has the straw plait manufactory been tried in your parish?—Yes, to a very great extent.

When was that straw plait manufactory commenced?—It commenced some years before I knew the parish; but it has increased very much since I have known it.

Has not that given considerable employment to the women and children?—So much so, that I conceive without it our poor would have been very much distressed. It is the principal employment of the women and children.

Have the woods given more or less employment to the people, in thinning the plantations?—They have given increased employment.

In the payment by the parish of the wages of surplus labourers during the winter months, is there any distinction made between a married and a single man?—Not any, except that the single men have the harder work of the two. There are two gravel pits; the single men are put into that which is supposed to be the least productive, but the wages are the same.

What is the general rate of weekly wages in Hatfield parish?—From 9*s.* to 12*s.*

Have they, out of these earnings, been able to make any considerable savings?—Not out of these earnings; but I conceive that they have out of their general earnings, because in most instances in a large family they add considerably to their weekly earnings by straw plait.

Can you state the sum that has been put into the savings bank, or into any place of deposit, during the last year?—I received 375*l.* in the last year from the poor.

What portion of that has been returned?—It was all returned to them at the end of the year. It had been deposited in the Sunday bank.

Have any of them any considerable sums now in the savings bank?—Not any considerable sums in the savings bank.

Are there any particular instances which occur to your knowledge of large families having been brought up without any assistance from the parish?—Several. There is one in particular, a poor man with nine children under 14 years of age, who has not received relief for several years from his parish; his earnings during that time have been 11*s.* and 12*s.* a week, and his children have been enabled to earn from 5*s.* to 8*s.* by their plait.

Can you state whether the family to which you allude were in possession of any land for cultivation?—The farmer by whom he has been employed during that period has always given him a quantity of land, which they call the Hedge Greens, to cultivate for himself.

Does that individual express himself as depending mainly upon this source of subsistence?—He represents that without that he should certainly have been under the necessity of applying to his parish for relief.

That man is in constant employment?—He is.

Has he lived in the same place the whole time?—He has.

Is it a common practice with farmers of that neighbourhood to give land to labourers to cultivate?—It is.

Will you state the formation and objects of the Sunday bank?—The poor are allowed to bring every Sunday from 6*d.* to 2*s.*, which is returned to them at the end of the year, with an interest of 10 per cent.

How is that interest of 10 per cent obtained?—It is obtained by the voluntary contribution of individuals.

Is that returned in money or clothes?—In money.

Do the farmers of Hatfield frequent the London market?—With bay they do.

Do they not bring manure from London as back-carriage?—They do.

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That is, of course, a great advantage to them in the cultivation of their land?—It is.

Do you find that the straw plait manufacture, which you think renders great service to the poor people in your neighbourhood, is extending into the neighbouring counties?—I am not aware that it is.

Do they export the manufactured articles?—They are exported.

Do you think anything could be obtained if the Government gave a premium on the exportation of the straw plait manufactures?—I really am hardly able to give an opinion upon that. I will state one circumstance with regard to plait: some years ago, when I first came to Hatfield, I wished to ascertain the produce of the labour of the women, and I ascertained that one woman had earned 22s. in a week by her plait.

How long has the Sunday bank been established in Hatfield?—About 11 or 12 years.

Were you the clergyman of the parish at its first institution?—Yes.

Was there any difficulty, in the first instance, in inducing the labourers to come and deposit their money with you?—It has increased gradually; there was some little difficulty in inducing them at first; but at the end of the first year, when they saw the advantage it was to their neighbours, there were many more anxious to come into it.

Have those who were the original contributors to it rather increased than diminished their deposits?—Some of them have; but we do not allow them beyond 2s. a week.

Are there many that go to that extent?—Yes, there are a great many.

Are there any that to your knowledge began with depositing a smaller sum than 2s., who have now been enabled to make their deposits to that amount?—Several.

Has there been any improvement in the general appearance of the families who have so deposited their money?—I should say, decidedly.

When you receive this money, do you retain it in your own hands or pay it into a bank?—I pay it into the savings bank.

From the savings bank you receive a certain interest?—Yes.

You pay then 10 per cent. upon the deposit?—Yes.

Have you any means of stating the amount of the deposits during the first year of the establishment of that bank?—Under 100 *l*.

Did it increase rapidly in the next year, or has it been a gradual increase?—A gradual increase; the last year it amounted to 375 *l*.

Have you ever perceived any diminution in the amount of deposits, in consequence of the badness of the times?—No, I cannot say that I have.

There has been a regular increase?—There has.

Are the contributors to it very generally within the parish, or is it confined still to a few?—One hundred and forty-two depositors, of whom 111 were labourers, and 31 were servants and apprentices.

Have you any means of stating the number of depositors in the first year, or every year during the time it has been established?—I have not that account with me.

Can you furnish the Committee with an account of the number of depositors each year, and the sum paid?—I think I can.

[The Witness is directed to prepare this Account.—See Appendix.]

Have you any other charitable funds to which the poor subscribe themselves?—We have a coal fund.

Will you state the number of contributors and the amount contributed to that?—I received last year 158 *l*. from the poor, some subscribing 6s., and others 9s.; they were furnished at Christmas with coals at 1s. per bushel.

The remaining price being made up out of private contribution?—Just so.

Have you found the eagerness to subscribe to that fund to increase from the time that it was originally established?—Very much.

Has that been a gradual increase, or have you found it diminish in seasons of distress?—It has continued to increase from its first establishment.

What proportion has their own subscription borne to private contributions to the coal fund?—The subscription is about one-third. The price of coals is about 52s. a chaldron, and we receive from them 36s.; they are delivered to them at 1s.

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Francis J. Fulford.
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a bushel; the difference between the 52 s. and the 36 s. is made up out of private contribution.

Have you lately set up a fund for the purpose of procuring clothing for the poor?—Within the last six years the poor have been allowed to buy clothes during the three winter months.

Have you any institution in the shape of a penny club to enable them to do that?—Yes; that is but a very small part of it.

When was that established?—The shop was opened in the year 1825.

Can you state at what expense that shop has been kept open during the last six years?—The poor have annually expended from 120 l. to 150 l. in clothes.

What amount of private contribution has enabled you to give them that opportunity?—Five and twenty per cent. has been contributed.

Have you lately introduced a penny club, for the purpose of encouraging them to buy clothes?—Yes.

How many contributors have there been to that fund this year?—I cannot tell at present; that is taken by ladies, and no return has been made to me of it yet.

In your opinion, has the population of Hatfield increased rapidly since the last census?—Judging by the births and deaths, it has increased about 50 every year; the christenings have amounted to about 100, and the burials to 50.

Do you conceive that marriages are as frequent now as they were the first 10 years you were acquainted with the parish?—Yes; I should think nearly the same.

Do the people marry at an equally early period?—Yes, I think so.

Do they marry at an earlier period?—I think not.

Do you conceive the population are in a better condition now, notwithstanding this increase of 50 persons every year, than it was 10 years ago?—I think the poor are much better off than they were 10 years ago.

Have any additional means of employment arisen in your parish?—No, I am not aware that there have, except at the paper mill; there has been a considerable addition there.

Are the persons employed at the paper mill all parishioners of Hatfield, or do they come from the neighbouring parishes?—The papermakers are not parishioners of Hatfield; the others who are employed at the mill generally are.

Can you state how many persons are employed at the paper mill?—There are 47 men, 60 women, 7 boys and 6 girls.

How many of those are parishioners of Hatfield?—I should think all, except the nine papermakers.

In your opinion are the morals of the poor improved since the adoption of a better system of parish expenditure?—I should say they are, certainly.

Do you conceive that a dependence on the parish rates tends to degrade their moral character?—Certainly; the moral character of the people has risen since the situation in the management of the poor. Many instances have occurred since the alteration in the management of the parish, in which the poor, whether as parents or as children, have come forward to the assistance of their relations, in a way in which they never did before: we have many poor widows who are entirely supported by their children.

How long have the paper mills been established?—They have been established a great many years; they were established when I came to Hatfield.

Are they on the common system of machinery or an improved system of machinery?—An improved system of machinery, by steam. Much of the work is done by steam, and with a great deal of machinery added to it.

Has any improvement in the machinery taken place within your time?—A great deal.

Had that an effect on the number of hands employed?—A very great effect; it has increased the number of persons employed from 35 to 120.

It is a large establishment?—It is now.

Has the working in the paper mill improved the morals of the people?—I do not perceive that it has affected their morals.

You mentioned that there is the straw plait manufacture carried on in your parish?—To a very great extent.

Have you any difficulty in disposing of that?—None at all; it is carried to St. Alban's every week; there is a regular market for it; and persons go and purchase of the poor who keep it by them: they are large sellers of this plait.

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Francis J. Faithful,
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It is sold by the individuals?—It is. In some instances persons come round the country and buy the plait of the poor at their own cottages.

Is that carried on at all at the expense of the parish?—No; by the individuals themselves. A young woman at this present time can earn from 8 s. to 10 s. a week by plait, and children from 3 s. to 5 s.

Children of what age?—From the age of six to twelve.

Are you aware of any such manufacture being carried on anywhere else in the neighbourhood?—In Bedfordshire, I believe, very generally; and all over Hertfordshire.

Is the straw grown in the neighbourhood?—Yes, it is.

You have stated that the condition of the poor has been very much improved within the last few years, at the same time that the condition of the farmers has become worse; how do you account for the improved condition of the poor?—By the reduced price of provisions. I conceive that the rate of wages to the poor has not fallen in proportion to the price of all the necessaries of life.

Probably this is owing, in some measure, to the charitable institutions connected with your parish?—I do not attribute much to them.

Do you attribute anything to the better economy pursued by the poor themselves?—No, I cannot say that I do. I think that there is a great deal more money spent by the poor in beer now than there was some years ago.

In consequence of the greater cheapness of beer?—Yes.

And perhaps to the greater facilities of buying it at the new beer shops?—Yes; I am sorry to say that is very much so indeed.

Have you found any sensible diminution in the sums of money lodged in the savings bank the last year?—No, I have not; they are generally contributed by those persons who are regular, and do not frequent the beer shops; but I hear very great complaints from the wives of poor men at present, that their husbands are tempted daily to go to those beer shops, and asking me whether there is any remedy for their remaining in the shops from morning till night.

What answer did you give to that question?—That I was not aware that there was any remedy.

Do not you suppose the magistrates have jurisdiction over those houses, as they have over other places where there are disorders committed?—Yes; but I believe there is no penalty for tipping in those houses, as there is in public-houses.

Do you hear any complaint among the farmers against those beer-houses?—Very great indeed on the part of the farmers.

Do you think they are compensated by the greater custom they have for their milk?—No, I think not; they complain that it is drawing away their labourers from their work at various hours of the day, and doing a great deal to demoralize them.

Have you had more disturbances and drunken riots in the parish than before the establishment of the beer-shops?—Certainly.

Have any great number of excise licenses been taken out in the parish?—I cannot state exactly the number, but I should think 10 or 12.

Does the parish require any evidence, before they give a man employment, that he has endeavoured to find employment for himself?—The overseer gives him a paper, to which he is obliged to procure the signature of the person by whom he has been previously employed, and to go round and get the signatures of at least 20 other farmers to his certificate, that they have no employment for him.

Have the women and children any more employment in the straw plait than they used to have?—They are constantly employed; but I do not suppose their profits are so great now as they were 10 or 12 years ago.

Are they more generally employed now?—They are, certainly.

Is every pauper in the parish attended by the parish apothecary, if he complains of sickness?—With an order from the permanent overseer.

Is that order generally refused or granted?—Always granted.

Under what regulations is relief given after such applications?—The apothecary is empowered to give relief, such as he conceives necessary, till the meeting of the next select vestry, when he is to lay the case before the vestry, and to leave it in their hands as to any future relief to be granted.

Are the poor in general satisfied with the administration of the Poor Laws?—I think, certainly, they are.

Are the rate-payers in general so satisfied?—Particularly satisfied.

Rev.
Francis J. Fairbairn,
15 March 1831.

Do you find any difficulty in getting a sufficient number to attend the select vestry to form a legal meeting?—Yes, some difficulty.

To what cause do you attribute that?—I hardly know to what cause to attribute it, except that they conceive that the management of the parish is in the hands of a few persons, and they are willing to give it up to them, satisfied with their arrangement.

How many shillings in the pound have been for the last few years demanded by the parish in the shape of rates?—Four shillings.

At what valuation?—Three-fifths of the value.

Have the county rates increased considerably since the adoption of this management?—The county rates have increased very considerably. We now pay 230*l.*, and have done for the last five years, for the county rate. The highest sum in the five preceding years was 141*l.*

What does a rate of 1*s.* in the pound produce?—£. 500.

Can you state how many shillings in the pound were raised previously to the adoption of those new regulations?—From six to eight.

Are the stone warden's rates much higher than they were?—Higher in proportion.

Was it then the practice to employ the labourers upon the roads, without any check upon such employment?—They were employed on the roads, and also employed as roundsmen, during the time the rates were so high.

You have spoken in very proper terms of the benefits derived to your parish from the institutions and clubs; you have since added, that you do not think much of the improved condition of the poor is to be attributed to them; will you have the goodness to explain that. Do you say you do not attribute much of their improvement to those institutions as compared with the advantage they derive from the decreased price of necessaries?—Yes, as compared, because it gives so small an amount.

Are there many persons in benefit societies in your parish?—I should think by far the greatest proportion are in benefit societies.

Are those benefit societies well conducted, or otherwise?—I think some of them very indifferently.

Is it not a very great disadvantage the members of those societies assembling in public-houses?—I think a very great disadvantage.

Has the expense of casual poor coming through the parish increased or decreased of late years?—I should think it is very much the same; I do not think there has been either an increase or a decrease. We never give relief to any casual poor, except in case of sickness.

Has much money been spent in litigation during the last ten years in the parish?—I think the highest sum in the last ten years is 15*l.* 13*s.* in the year.

Has there not been very considerable expense incurred this year?—There has been an expense of nearly 50*l.* incurred this year.

Will you have the goodness to state under what circumstances that expense was incurred?—In consequence of a woman with child being passed from Hythe, and the expense of appealing against the order of removal.

Can you state what the ground of removal was?—She came into the parish to assist a married sister in sickness, and she remained, assisting her brother-in-law in the management of his family after her sister's death, and remained there for a considerable time, receiving no wages, and not being hired, only continuing in the house as an assistant; and on that ground they removed her from Hythe to Hatfield.

Have you seen the correspondence that passed upon that occasion?—I have.

Could you lay that before the Committee?—I am not certain that I could; but I should think it is kept among the parish papers.

Will you state the substance of it?—The removing magistrate at Hythe was written to; he returned for answer, that he had himself considerable doubts respecting the case, so much so, that he had on the first application refused to pass the woman home, but that he was afterwards induced to do it; and of course we felt it necessary to appeal.

Did he say that he would apply to the select vestry to accept the proposal of the pauper being sent back without incurring further expense?—He did.

Was any answer made on the part of the select vestry?—Not any.

Was the order of removal appealed against?—It was.

How was it decided?—The order was quashed.

Were the expenses allowed?—They were not.

At what sessions was the appeal heard?—At the quarter sessions for East Kent.

Have any amendments occurred to you as desirable in the Poor Laws?—The only thing I would suggest as an improvement would be doing away the Poor Laws altogether, except in cases of sickness; I am quite satisfied that the poor would themselves find resources, from relieving and assisting each other, without any parochial relief.

Are you aware of the words of the 43d of Elizabeth?—Yes; and I think it would be brought back to the very words of the statute.

Are the Committee to understand that it is your opinion that the nearer you approximate to the original statute of Elizabeth, the better the system of Poor Laws?—Certainly.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Friday next, Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 18^o Martii 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Edward Simeon, Esq. is called in; and Examined as follows:

YOU reside at Whitchurch, in Oxfordshire?—I do.

You have acted as a magistrate for a considerable time?—Yes, I have.

During that time have you had much occasion to turn your attention to the Poor Laws?—I have; a good deal owing to the circumstance of my acting principally at my own house, and without any professional adviser.

Is there any particular district or parish for which you have acted, or have you acted generally for the division?—I have acted generally for the division in which I reside.

Have you attended to the parish accounts particularly?—Not very much to the details of the accounts. I think they do not come so much before the magistrate as before the overseer.

Is it the practice in your neighbourhood to make any allowance to labourers on the score of their families?—Yes, it is.

Are the magistrates regulated by any table?—I think not. There was some years ago a regulation, which went under the denomination of bread money; but I have been very anxious to get that regulation put on one side, and I think I have succeeded a good deal in doing so in the immediate neighbourhood in which I reside.

There is not then now a regular allowance according to the numbers in the family?—Not exactly. We do not allow any particular claim on the part of the paupers. Our object is to keep the power of giving relief as much as possible in the hands of the overseer, who is of course liable to be summoned before the magistrate if he do not what is right. Formerly the paupers used to bring a regular charge to the overseer, and obtained a sum of money as a matter of right, in proportion to the number of the family.

What is the rate of wages in your immediate neighbourhood?—Ten shillings a week for the able-bodied man; it was nine till lately.

Do they get any extra wages in the harvest?—Yes; I think in the harvest they get as much as a guinea a week.

What addition do you make to the wages of 10 s. a week for a man with four children?—I should think he would get about 11 s. in all; but it would depend upon the price of bread. Although we do not acknowledge the rule of bread money, we are guided a good deal by the price of bread; but I would wish to state, that my great aim has been to induce the overseers to fix a positive amount of wages at which they will take the men all round. Some men can earn more than others, and do, in consequence of their good conduct. My object is always to induce the overseers not to inquire too narrowly what the men actually earn from their

Rev.
Francis J. Feklyfal.

18 March 1831.

Edward Simeon,
Esq.

18 March 1831.

Edward Stacey,
Esq.

18 March 1831.

masters, but to take the wages at 9s. or 10s. all round, and then add as much as they would in the common course of things to those 9s. or 10s. Perhaps individuals amongst these men, from being very trustworthy or industrious, may be earning from 10s. to 12s. per week; but this system has the effect of encouraging the respectable labourer. I found before, that the good and the bad were all upon a footing of equality in point of payment.

Is the district in which you reside purely agricultural?—Yes, nearly so. There is a trifling sack manufactory at Goring.

When the rates have been presented to you for signature, does any great portion of those rates come out of houses, and other descriptions of property, independent of agriculture?—Yes; a good many. I happen to live in the Valley of the Thames, which has a good many gentlemen's houses in it, and they are all rated of course.

Are the poor rates heavy in your neighbourhood?—Not very heavy in the parish in which I reside; but there is an immense difference in different parishes.

Has it occurred to you to know whether the poor of those parishes where the rates are highest are most at their ease, or where the rates are lowest?—I should say generally the reverse; that where the rates are highest they are generally the worst off.

To what cause do you attribute that?—I think in a great measure to mismanagement; partly, perhaps, to the circumstance that some parishes have a great many gentlemen's families in them, when others have none at all. Of course the gentlemen's families, by employing many people, and doing more in the way of charity, supersede the necessity of so heavy a poor rate.

What is the usual rent of cottages?—From 3*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.*

Are those cottages generally the property of the principal landowners?—I think not. Many of the cottages have been built as matter of speculation by little freeholders. I think the principal part belong to the great landholders; but a great many belong to the little tradesmen.

Is there any practice of excusing those cottages from rates?—Yes, invariably.

Is it customary for the parish to pay the rent of them?—I should say not generally; it was the custom till lately; but we have been induced to fight very much against it, and we have succeeded in pretty nearly bringing it to a close in the parish in which I reside; but in the neighbouring parishes the rents are generally paid by the parish.

You refer to the rents of those cottages that are high rented, and that have been built upon speculation?—No; to the cottages inhabited by paupers generally, to whoever belonging. Some landlords, I should however state, take very much lower rents.

Are those individuals that have built those cottages upon speculation for the most part considerable contributors to the rates themselves?—I should say not; I should say very small contributors to the rate; such as are shopkeepers have an interest in increasing the rates instead of diminishing them.

Are many of the poor embarked in benefit societies in your neighbourhood?—I think not many. I know but of one benefit society in the neighbourhood, and that has been managed by gentlemen; where it is left to themselves they invariably get into scrapes, and it does not answer.

Can you make any comparison between those poor people who are in benefit societies, and those who have no dependence in sickness but upon parish relief?—I should say that those who belong to benefit societies are the most respectable and the most laborious class, and the best characters by far.

Is there any great want of employment in your neighbourhood?—There is; there has been for several winters past.

Can you state the population of your parish?—It appears by the Population Return to be 647.

How many persons are out of employment in your parish?—There are no persons actually out of employment; because at the beginning of the winter we had a meeting, and the gentlemen and principal farmers each engaged to take an additional man. When I say there were no persons, there were a few of bad character whom nobody would take; three or four who get their living by poaching.

Is your parish chiefly arable or pasture?—Chiefly arable.

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Edward Simon,
Esq.

19 March 1831.

Can you state the proportion of labourers there were to 100 acres, after that arrangement?—I cannot, because a great many of the labourers are employed in gardens; we have four or five gentlemen's houses in the neighbourhood, who employ a great many labourers in gardens and works of that description.

Previously to the arrangement, were there many labourers out of employ?—About ten or a dozen able-bodied men.

Were they mostly good or bad characters?—Many of them very good characters. But I should speak more immediately of the adjoining parish of Goring as being in a very distressed state, and Southstroke. In those two parishes the amount of the rates is from 10s. to 15s., and in the parish of Whitchurch it is only 5s.

Can you state the extent of the parish of Goring?—I think about 3,000 or 4,000 acres; it is by no means so thickly inhabited as our parish.

Is it an arable parish?—Chiefly arable, except close by the Thames, where it is pasture land.

Are there many persons out of employment there?—I have not had occasion to make particular inquiries this winter; but the winter before last there were as many as 25 able-bodied men out of employment, who were working upon the road at the rate of 3s. 6d. per week.

Are there any gentlemen resident in that parish?—Only one or two gentlemen of very small fortune.

Are the farmers much distressed in that parish?—I should think they are, from the accounts I hear.

Can you state whether the cultivation of the land is carried on as well as it was some few years ago?—I should doubt very much whether it is; I should suppose not. In point of fact, some of the tenants have told me that land that used to pay very well to cultivate, is worth nothing now, on account of the low price of produce.

Have they told you, that with a remunerating price for their produce they would have had sufficient employment for all the labouring classes?—I do not know that I ever put that question; but I have no doubt that there would be a vast deal more labour if the prices of produce were higher.

Sufficient to employ the whole of the population?—Perhaps not, because the population is constantly increasing.

Within your own knowledge, is the land there capable of any great improvement?—I imagine that if the price of produce were higher, more money would be laid out in clearing the land, and therefore the land would be more improved; especially, more beans would be grown, which are a great source of profit to the poor labourers, by employing the women and children (who can do nothing else in the spring) in planting them with the hand, dibbling, as it is called; but they are very low in price, and the farmers will not plant more than is necessary.

Is there any manufactory of any kind in the parish of Goring?—There used to be a great deal of spinning formerly by the females; but that is given up now, as it does not answer, in consequence of the introduction of machinery.

Have they any means of earning anything in addition to their wages?—I have endeavoured to employ them occasionally in knitting stockings; but I found that from want of practice there are very few of them who can do it with facility; and those that can are not willing to do it, because they expect that if they earn any thing in that way it will be taken off their allowance by the overseer.

Have the poor any gardens in your parish?—Some of them have; but many have none at all. Those who rent under the little shopkeepers and tradesmen, that I alluded to before, have not generally gardens.

Has any attempt been made to let out portions of land in that way?—None at all.

Is there a select vestry established in the parish of Goring?—I think not, nor in the parish of Whitchurch.

Have they taken any advantage of the provisions of the Act of the 59th of the late King, which empower parishes to hire acres of land?—No.

Is there much real employment for them upon the roads?—A good many people are put upon the roads from not knowing what to do with them.

Are they paid by the day, or in proportion to the labour they do?—They profess often to pay them according to the work; but, to save trouble, the overseer at last pays them by the day, or rather by the week.

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Is there any permanent overseer in the parish?—No; there is a great difficulty in appointing a permanent overseer.

Are there any workhouses?—There are no workhouses. With respect to the difficulty of appointing a permanent overseer, it has been thought very desirable, as it is found that the farmers could not undertake the duty of looking after the paupers, to appoint a standing overseer in various parishes; but some of the magistrates have refused to appoint a standing overseer except upon stamped paper; and there is an impression that that would give him a permanent settlement in the parish; and the consequence is, that standing overseers have not been appointed, to the great detriment of the parish. It is under the Stamp Act that the magistrates have got that notion, and I think the notion has been encouraged a good deal by the clerks of the petty sessions. They may be right for what I can tell.

Why would the appointing under a stamp give the standing overseer a settlement?—I cannot tell that, and I am not of opinion that it will; but the majority of the magistrates are of that opinion, and they have over-ruled me upon the subject. My object has always been to shut my eyes to any difficulty of that sort that was not necessarily brought before us.

Have cases under the law of settlement come particularly under your notice?—A good many.

What are the principal defects in the law of settlement that have occurred to you?—I should say the settlement by hiring and service.

Is that much practised?—I think not so much as it was. Many young labourers are very unwilling to hire themselves by the year, because they find that they do better by taking the high wages they can earn in summer, and then coming upon the parish and living in idleness in the winter. A respectable farmer in my neighbourhood heard two lads agree never to get into a place again, as it was much better to be on the parish in winter, and earn what they could in summer.

Is there any difficulty, in consequence of the laws of hiring and service, in persons going out of their own parish and getting employment where there might be work for them in other parishes?—It operates in this way: if a man lives in what is called a bad parish, he is willing to go out and gain a settlement elsewhere; but if he lives in what is called a good parish, that is to say, where there are a great many gentry, and a good deal done for the poor, he takes a great deal of care not to gain a settlement any where else.

Is the law evaded in your neighbourhood by hiring a day after Michaelmas?—I think it is, occasionally; but the judges have discountenanced that. They have leaned, as one judge says, in favour of gaining a settlement on the part of the labourers, and they have stretched the point a good deal.

Is much money spent in litigation upon this subject in your neighbourhood?—I think not much. We generally think it better to give way than to litigate.

Have you turned your attention to any alteration you would think desirable in the laws of settlement?—I should say, that if we could get rid of the settlement by service it would be of vast advantage to the country.

Is there any other alteration you would recommend in the law of settlement?—I would suggest an alteration in the Bastardy Laws. The Bastardy Laws proceed upon the principle of indemnifying the parish, by throwing the onus of the bastard upon the father. Now I rather believe that we shall never be able to check the birth of bastard children by throwing the onus upon the man; and I feel strongly convinced, that until the law of this country is assimilated to the law of nature, and to the law of every other country, by throwing the onus more upon the females, the getting of bastard children will never be checked. Your Lordships are aware, that when a man has the misfortune to have a bastard child sworn to him, he is brought before a magistrate. The magistrates are placed in this predicament: they say to the man, "Will you marry this woman; will you support the child; or will you go to prison?" The man very naturally says, "I cannot support the child, for I have not got the means; out of 3s. 6d. a week it is impossible to give 2s. a week, and I am exceedingly unwilling to go to Oxford goal, and therefore of the three evils I will choose the least, and marry the woman, although it is probable that the child is not mine, and if it is mine, it is probable that the woman has lain with half the parish as well as myself." Your Lordship is aware, that when a bastard child is sworn to a man, the magistrates will not go into the question whether the woman has had any connection with any other man. The consequence is, that a woman of dissolute character may have

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have connection with any person she pleases, and then pitch upon any unfortunate young man whom she has inveigled into her net, and swear that child to him; and the effect of the law as it now stands will be to oblige the man to marry her. The consequence is, that the parish, instead of keeping one bastard child, has to keep half a dozen legitimate children, the result of their marriage. As far as regards the females the case is infinitely worse. You say to a woman, "As long as you continue virtuous and modest you have no chance of getting a husband, because, in the present state of things, the men are cautious about marrying; but if you will turn whore, and lie with any person you please, the law will oblige him to marry you." You thus secure to her what every woman looks upon as the greatest prize, a husband. You thus make the vice of the woman the means of getting that which she is anxious to get; and I feel convinced that three-fourths of the women that now have bastard children would not be seduced if it were not for the certainty that the law would oblige the man to marry.

Is not that consequence rather owing to the misconduct of the magistrates, who allow the marriage of the parties to be any indemnification of the parish, than owing to the law itself?—No; it would not be an indemnification to the parish for a bastard child born in the parish.

Is it not an unlawful act on the part of the magistrates?—The magistrates do not put it in so many words; but the man comes before the magistrate, knowing perfectly well that such and such will be the case. The magistrate would never venture to say to the man "If you do not marry the girl I will send you to prison;" but the man knows that will be the case. For myself, I am so convinced of the iniquity of the Bastardy Laws, that I have always refrained from acting upon them in my own house, and send the cases to the petty sessions. As the law now stands, the magistrate conceives himself bound, upon the requisition of the overseer, to send any man to prison to whom a bastard child is sworn, unless he is prepared with bail. At Reading, two or three months ago I was on the bench, and a young man was brought up to have a child sworn to him; the overseer of this parish where the girl lived was present; the magistrate was about to commit this young man, who appeared to be a respectable person, for want of bail to appear at the sessions, to prison; I remonstrated, and said that I thought it was hard, as the man said he would give bail at his appearance at the sessions. The answer of the magistrate was, "As the Act of Parliament stands, if the overseer request it, I am bound to commit him." I said, "I think you have some latitude; but at all events, rather than see a respectable young man committed to prison, I will be bail for him myself." I did not know the man, but I thought it cruel that he should be sent to prison under those circumstances. Your Lordships are aware, that after a man has been once imprisoned his character is in a manner lost, and therefore he does not much care what he does after. Like a boy at school, who, after he has been once flogged, is comparatively indifferent to the disgrace. The overseer refused to consent to the man not being sent to prison. I found that it was for the purpose of obliging this young man to marry the girl; and therefore I am justified in saying, that no option is left to the young man under those circumstances. Numberless similar cases have occurred before me.

Would the magistrate be justified in admitting that as a plea for not enforcing the Bastardy Laws, that he subsequently married the girl?—Certainly not; the man would still be bound to keep his child born before marriage under the order of sessions.

What alterations can you suggest in the Bastardy Laws to correct that evil?—The only alteration I can suggest would be to throw the onus more upon the females, if not entirely upon the females.

How would you carry that into effect?—By refusing to give any order upon the father for support, or upon the parish even. I would throw the onus entirely upon the woman. I know of many instances in which the mothers have themselves been instrumental in having their daughters seduced, for the express purpose of getting rid of the onus of supporting them, and saddling them upon any unfortunate young men of the neighbourhood whom they could get to the house. Now, as long as that conduct can meet with that result, it will invariably be continued, and the population must go on increasing.

Do you then attribute the rapid increase of the population very much to the effect of the Bastardy Laws in forcing early marriages?—Almost entirely. In order to show your Lordships what sometimes passes at the sessions, I will beg leave to

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mention circumstances that came within my knowledge at the petty sessions at Henley. A pauper applied for a pair of shoes, although the parish had given him a capital pair not three weeks before, which he had sold for drink. When a man of that sort comes to the magistrates, the latter are too frequently imposed upon, and give an order on the overseer, which he complies with, and a constant fraud is carried on. One woman applied to have some wood sent in by the overseer; but it is notorious that the law does not authorize anything of the sort. Another complained, that though he had received money, and been put into a house by the overseer, the overseer had not furnished his house for him. I put these things down, as they all happened in one day; which shows what the feeling of the poor people is, and which feeling has arisen from the way in which the Poor Laws have been put into execution in our part of the country.

Do the magistrates attend to any of those cases?—I think not; but I think there had been a disposition to attend to cases of this sort previously, otherwise they would not have been brought forward. Will your Lordships allow me to mention one or two circumstances connected with the hiring and service. A respectable pauper, one day, to whom I was complaining, and saying that I did not think the parishioners of my parish were at all good workmen, and that the out-parishioners who lived in the parish were the best labourers, answered very coolly, "The fact is, that they will put up with a great deal more than the in-parishioners will put up with;" meaning to say, that they would work, and be lectured by their masters, which the in-parishioners would not, because they consider that their masters are bound to keep them in any case. I know a young man who had a very excellent place in our neighbourhood, who lived with a gentleman, and was employed as labourer under the gardener; he said he would not stay there, because he did not choose to take any orders from the gardener; and added, that he did not care whether he lost his place or not, because he knew the parish must keep him in any case. I submit, that in a case of that sort he ought to have been sent to the treadmill; but, unfortunately, that is not the system that is pursued. I should say, that the Poor Laws in themselves are not so defective as the way in which they have been administered. Your Lordships are aware that there is a great deal of intimidation exercised by the paupers towards the overseers.

Have there been any riots in your neighbourhood?—In Berkshire, but not in Oxfordshire; 200 or 300 men marched into Oxfordshire, but they found no encouragement, and went back again. Your Lordships are aware of the common custom among the poor of coming home in winter. Before I came to town, a couple of idle men came to the parish, who had been working out of the parish several years; they came and said that they would have support; and finding the overseer not willing to take them in, they offered, if he would give them two sovereigns each, they would go away, and not return for this winter; and the overseer offered to give them half a sovereign each, which they were not satisfied with. This shows clearly that labour often may be got by people when they come home to their parishes.

Is there any other evil which you consider to exist in the present administration of the Poor Laws?—I should suggest, as one source of great evil in the country, the improper directions given by magistrates to the overseers. I take it that one of the greatest sources of the departures from the original law has been in the directions given by the magistrates to the overseers. Those directions are drawn up by any law stationer, and are signed as a matter of course by the magistrates, and they are sent round to the various overseers; those overseers find it necessary to act upon them, under a penalty. I have collected from four to five different descriptions of orders to overseers, issued in the same county of Oxford. It is of course impossible that these should be all correct, and in fact I believe that no one of them was correct; and if some measure could be taken by which directions to overseers could be issued from the Home Office, or by some responsible party, that would tend to remove many evils. Those directions are issued as a matter of course; and I was so much shocked, when I began to act as a magistrate, at finding them so much at variance with the law, that I attempted to have some alteration made; but I was told that it had gone on so for years, and did not get the evil redressed.

Has it occurred to you that any means could be devised for encouraging young men obtaining employment in service?—The taking off the tax upon servants would have great effect. I find now that the tradesmen and little farmers

who

who used to keep servants are unwilling to do so on account of the tax; and that has the effect of course of preventing those people being employed; and that has an effect of course upon ourselves, of raising the price of servants.

Is it the practice in Oxfordshire for farmers to keep servants in their own houses?—I think that has become a little more the case lately. It was formerly practised; but the men do not like it now, and the masters find it troublesome, and the men find they have more liberty by not hiring themselves for a year. One thing that makes it very disagreeable for farmers to hire labourers for a year is, that they are not able to keep them in order without sending them to prison. I am perfectly convinced that if some means were given to the magistrates, instead of sending men and boys to prison, of putting them to the stocks, or inflicting some minor punishment, the consequence would be that a great deal of good would be done in checking small offences. As the matter is, we have no check upon juvenile or grown-up offenders, because every right-thinking man is unwilling to send a man or boy to prison for small offences; whereas if they could be put in the stocks, it would be a great check upon them.

Are you not aware that they can mulct them of their wages?—The mulcting them of their wages, where they are so very small, can hardly be done without starving them.

Is the punishment in the stocks ever resorted to in your parish?—It is only legal for drunkenness; but I think it would be very desirable if it could be made legal for general misconduct with their masters. I am so strongly convinced of it, that, after consulting with some other magistrates, I took the liberty of writing to Mr. Peel, two years ago, upon the subject. I may have a dozen complaints against a dozen different people, every one of which ought to be punished, but which I am perfectly unable to punish, unless I go the extreme length of sending these poor boys to prison; and I know that if I send them to prison, they will be thrown into such company that they come out worse than they go in. Supposing the present distress in a great measure to proceed from over-population, and supposing the over-population to proceed very much from the Bastardy Laws, there would then be strong ground made out for making some alteration in these laws.

Do you conceive the existence of over-population throughout the country generally to be a point established?—I conceive so, generally. With regard to the settlement by hiring and service, it has this particularly bad effect, that a good character does not secure the continuance of a good place, because the farmers are now getting into the way of changing every 364 days, in order to prevent the man gaining a settlement; and the consequence is, that if he behaves ever so well, there is hardly any circumstance under which the farmer will engage him. If it were not for that, the man would remain for years in the same place, and there would be some reward for his conduct; but as it is now, you make it the interest of all parties that men should change at the end of every twelvemonth.

With respect to the average rate of wages, which you have mentioned as 10s. a week, how far would that apply to the different parishes in the country at large, as far as your experience extends?—I think the average is about 9s.; and for boys of 20 or 21, who can do as much as men, they give them 4s. or 5s. a week.

Do you think that they can be in distress, receiving such wages as those, if a considerable portion of them are not out of employ?—I think they cannot be otherwise than in distress with the wages I allude to. A young single lad is obliged to pay 1s. to 1s. 6d. a week for his lodging and washing, and after that, what is left; 4s. or 3s. a week is very little.

Do you not think, that if the circumstances of the peasantry were improved, it would give you an opportunity of punishing them by mulcts, which you do not now possess?—Yes; but as long as the population is so great I do not see how it is possible to do that, because the farmer, of course, will get his work done at the cheapest rate that he can.

Does it occur to you, that by means of competition the farmers get their work done very cheaply?—Certainly they do. Your Lordships are aware, that in consequence of the settlement by service we have this inconvenience: a gentleman takes a footman out of another family; the man resides with him perhaps for a twelvemonth; when he has got this settlement, he does not care how he behaves; he says, "I know my master must keep me either as his footman or as his pauper, and therefore I am at liberty to get drunk, or behave how I please." I have known that to take place repeatedly. I would mention, as another illustration, the case of a labouring man to whom I was speaking, with whom I found some fault. I told

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him, "If you do not behave better, I must discharge you." He was impatient; and I said, "You shall not remain in my service; I shall discharge you." He said, "You will please to remember that you discharge me; I do not leave you." Meaning to say, "I have a good claim upon the parish notwithstanding." In point of fact, the man went to the parish, and is supported by them. I will state what happened in the parish of Southstroke. A man who was a blacksmith by trade, had been supported, with his numerous family, a good many years, by the parish, under pretence that he could not get work; and in consequence of the representations they made to myself, I insisted upon the overseers looking out, and endeavouring to get him a place. The man went to the place which had been procured for him, and which was worth 15s. or 18s. a week. As soon as he got to the master blacksmith, he said to him, "So the overseer has been to you;" to which the answer was, "Yes." "Well," says this fellow, "if you want all your horses lamed, you had better employ me; but if not, you had better let me go away again." The answer was, "I do not want my horses lamed, and therefore you had better go back again." The man went back, and was kept as before, by his parish. I mention that to show the way in which the Poor Laws are administered in that part of the country. Upon a subsequent occasion he was brought before me, and I sent him to the tread-mill.

Is he now in prison, or has he come out?—No; he is now out.

What has been his conduct since he came out?—I have not had an opportunity of hearing; he is very respectably connected, and I think his family have kept him a good deal.

Then that has had the effect of taking him off the parish?—I think it has.

Is there anything else that you wish to state to the Committee upon this subject?—Your Lordships, perhaps, are not aware shopkeepers are necessarily much interested in raising the poor's rates, and that in a vast number of the country parishes they are the overseers appointed. It is obvious, that the more money comes out of the rate-payer's pocket into the labourer's pocket, the more money he can lay out at the shop; and the shopkeeper, being frequently the overseer at the same time, has the means of favouring those paupers who deal at his shop, in preference to any other paupers. I have had so many complaints upon this subject, that I have made it a rule never to appoint a shopkeeper overseer; but it is done to a great extent, and it is a source of great evil. There is a great difficulty in finding overseers, from the clause in the Act of Parliament which makes it not imperative upon any individual to act when he does not live in the parish. I allude to the 59 Geo. 3. In the parish in which I reside the same man is overseer, churchwarden, and surveyor of the roads, because almost every other tenant of the land lives in the adjoining parish. It is a case of great hardship; and if the limits within which men must live in order to be overseers were a little widened, it would furnish a great many more people.

You stated that two men came home to your parish, who, you said, had been absent for many years; was it known where they had been?—I believe they had been in Surrey.

Was it known whether they came home in consequence of being turned off from their work in consequence of the rise of wages?—We could know nothing but what the men said. All they said was, "Here we are; we are out of work, and we know that we belong to this parish, and you must give us work or keep us." There is always a good deal of intimidation on the part of the overseers, and therefore they do not care to examine very narrowly into matters of this sort; they endeavoured, in this case, to bribe the men to go away again; and I know similar cases frequently occur.

What do you mean by intimidation on the part of the overseers?—I mean, that when paupers came to the overseers, if they put on a threatening attitude, the overseers frequently give them relief, which they would not do if they did not put on that threatening manner.

Do you mean as to their persons?—Not to their persons only, but more especially to their ricks and barns, and so on; and I have known several instances in my neighbourhood of overseers being assaulted for not admitting the claim of a pauper. It is a frequent custom to insult the overseers in a very scandalous way, and not always sufficiently checked by the magistrates. That of course discourages the overseers; because if a respectable man is had up to the petty sessions, and there confronted with a pauper, if he is abused by the paupers, and not sufficiently supported by the magistrates, the overseer says, "The next time I had better pay this

this man what he asks, instead of going before the bench." Your Lordships are aware that in many parts of the country the magistrates have no local interest whatever in the management of the Poor Laws, because magistrates are appointed continually who have not local property.

You mean gentlemen who hire residences in the neighbourhood?—Who hire residences, and who are not proprietors, and consequently have no interest in the increase or diminution of the rates.

You say that the overseers are frequently insulted and abused by the paupers; does it not often happen that the overseers use very harsh and improper language to the paupers?—As far as regards my own knowledge, I should say that the overseers are generally too liberal and too lenient to the paupers; I think they are in the habit constantly of paying sums of money they ought not to pay, and that has been one of the great sources of complaint with the magistrates. I should put as examples the case of the labourer whom I alluded to before, who left me because he did not choose to work according to my wishes, and another labourer who would not work under the gardener of a friend of mine. Those two persons went to the overseers and got relief, notwithstanding the overseers were aware of the circumstances. Though the magistrate may interfere to order relief, he cannot interfere to check relief.

Must not those men be relieved although they may have acted improperly?—That is the principle they go upon; but the consequence of that principle being admitted to such an extent, is, that a man will never keep his place unless it just happens to suit him.

Do you think it would be a good principle to act upon, not to give relief to a man under any circumstances who had put himself out of work by misconduct?—It would be extremely difficult to lay down any rule of that sort; but there are many cases in which the overseer ought to be made responsible for giving relief in which he is not now responsible.

In those cases in which the overseers have been abused, has it been the overseers themselves, or the assistant overseers?—The overseers themselves.

Have you ever observed any difference in the conduct of the paupers towards assistant overseers and towards the overseers themselves?—No; they (the assistant overseers) are not very common, in consequence of the objection I mentioned before.

Are you aware whether the assistant overseers are more apt to look narrowly into matters than the overseers themselves?—Generally speaking, they are perhaps even more liberal than the overseers are. When a man behaves ill to an overseer, it is extremely difficult to punish him in any way; the only thing that the overseer can do is to bring the complaint before a magistrate; and if the magistrate interferes, all that he can do is to commit the man for trial at the sessions. Under a late law, such offences can be punished by two magistrates, if they amount to an actual assault; but for violent, threatening, and abusive language, I know of no remedy but binding a man to be of good behaviour, or sending him to be tried at the sessions, if the case be a very aggravated one. I should anxiously desire to impress upon your Lordships, that nothing can check the constantly increasing population, and the demoralization of the lower classes, except a radical alteration of the laws of bastardy, and the abolition of settlements by hiring or service.

Would you introduce the principle of residence?—Certainly not. If that is introduced, the consequence will be, that every parish that is now well managed will be overrun by persons coming in from other parishes.

Will not that be the fault of the proprietors?—No; there are too many cottages built by small renters of land, who have only an interest in letting the cottage as high as they can to any person who may come to take it, and perhaps at the same time securing customers to their shop or trade.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Thomas G. B. Estcourt, Esq. a Member of the House of Commons, attending, is called in; and Examined as follows:

ARE you able to state to the Committee the effect which has been produced upon certain portions of population in Gloucestershire, by letting them have small allotments of land?—In both Gloucestershire and Wiltshire; the parishes adjoin, and I shall speak of them both together. I think it was about the year 1798

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that my father commenced the system of letting small portions of land to the cottagers in the adjoining parishes of Shipton Moyne in Gloucestershire, and Long Newton in Wiltshire; and from that time up to the present period it has been pursued. I have also adopted, since about the year 1810 or 1812, the letting small portions of land in a similar manner to the poor of Ashley, which adjoins Long Newton, and to the poor in two tithings of the parish of Bishops Cannings, which is near Devizes; and, generally speaking, I should say that the whole has been attended with perfect success, as materially diminishing the poor's rates of those parishes, and rendering that part of the population which has been in the occupation of land more happy and more comfortable, from the possession of it, than would probably otherwise have been the case. I draw that conclusion from other persons of the same description in all those parishes being at present under circumstances very different from those who have been in the occupation of land. Such is the general impression upon my mind. In regard to any particulars, perhaps the easier mode will be, to refer your Lordships to a statement which I delivered in to the Committee of the House of Commons in 1817. Upon looking it over this morning, I find that the facts which have occurred since that period correspond precisely with those there related, and that the anticipations then formed have been fully realized. That statement is contained in page 175 of the Report of the Committee on the Poor Laws in 1817.

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:]

"At Lady-day 1811, a cottage farm was instituted by a private individual in the parish of Bishops Cannings, in the county of Wilts: it is situated at about half a mile from the residence of the occupiers; the soil is a sandy loam, well calculated for cultivation by the spade, and for the production of garden vegetables, but requiring the aid of manure to render it very fertile. The quantity of land occupied by each tenant is from a quarter to half an acre; the rent is at the rate of two guineas per acre; the landlord paying tithe and taxes of every description; the tenure is from year to year, and the only conditions are, first, that the tenant shall receive no parochial relief; and secondly, that he shall, on the appointed day in November in each year, pay the year's rent due at the preceding Michaelmas. The effect of this plan has been, in the opinion of the overseers and of those most competent to form a correct judgment, highly beneficial, inasmuch as by this means many industrious individuals have been enabled to relinquish the parochial relief to which the maintenance of large families had obliged them to have recourse; and others have entirely escaped the painful necessity of becoming dependants in any degree on the poor's rate. There are at present 13 tenants, each of whom occupies half an acre; and 19, each in the occupation of a quarter of an acre. Three tenants have, since 1811, relinquished their allotments, in consequence of their becoming farmers or gardeners upon a much larger scale; and two have been obliged to quit, in consequence of their having failed to comply with the conditions upon which they were admitted. The places of the five were, however, immediately filled, as the vacancies occurred. Of the 32 families, consisting of 150 individuals, at present in occupation, and thus creditably and laudably maintaining themselves, none have failed in the strictest observance of either of the conditions upon which they took their land; and it may be as satisfactory to the Committee to be informed, as it is gratifying to the individual making the communication to state, that the conduct of these industrious people has been, during the whole period of their tenancy, altogether unimpeachable."

Can you give in any statement of the profit to those individuals from their allotments per acre?—It is impossible to state that, because the profit must vary according to the skill with which each person cultivates his small portion of land. It will be perhaps sufficient to state, that in that part which has been under my own observation those persons who have been in the occupation of the land have never required parochial relief; whereas persons of the same description, without land, have required it to a very large amount. In the instance of one of them, who, from a very untoward circumstance, being reduced to the necessity of obtaining for a short period assistance from the parish, thereby becoming disqualified for holding the land, and being in consequence removed from his occupation, he immediately became a charge upon the parish, and from that time to the present has been in the constant receipt of parochial relief; and I am confident he could not have existed without the receipt of such assistance. I have again,

again, at his earnest request, admitted him into the occupation of the same quantity of land that he had before; and I have every reason to believe, that as soon as the season arrives for digging his potatoes, he will be again enabled to maintain his family without any assistance from the poor's rate. Perhaps your Lordships would like to know what is the number of allotments of land in each of these places. In Ashley the whole parish has a population of 103 individuals, and I have eight allotments; in the parish of Long Newton, where the population is 306, I have 31 allotments; in Shipton Moyne, where the population is 390, I have 29 allotments; in Bishops Canninga, where the population is 1,224, I have 12 allotments; and in the chapelry of St. James, a tithing in the same parish, where the population is 1,265, I have 35 allotments; so that the number of allotments is but small in each of the places: but, in addition to this, there is a small portion of land that is let out to the poor of Tetbury, and they have been in the occupation about 15 years; and precisely the same result, with regard to those individuals, has attended that occupation of land that has attended those in the small agricultural parishes in the immediate neighbourhood of that town; so that I think I may say that it has been perfectly satisfactory in all particulars. I ought, however, to state, that in Long Newton, the parish in which my father first introduced this system, being during the latter part of his life infirm, and perhaps not so strict in the management of it as he had been before, some of the cottage tenants, by accidental circumstances, became possessed of much larger quantities of land than he had let to them before, or than I have ever let; some to the extent of three or four acres, and many were in possession of from an acre and a half to two acres and a half. So far as that has occurred, I think it has been productive of inconvenience: some of them have got larger profits than was absolutely necessary to remove them from the situation of parochial poor, and I think a considerable portion of those have been tempted to carry those increased profits to the alehouse, and to spend them improperly; others of them, whose families in lapse of time have gone off from them, and left them with perhaps only one child to maintain instead of a large family, have got such profits as enabled them to subsist without having recourse to any labour whatever; and the consequence is, that the farmers, who require the assistance of labourers in those small parishes more particularly, are dissatisfied with the system, and it is not so popular with them as it would be provided it was only made use of as a resource in lieu of poor's rates. The parish of Long Newton is the parish to which I now allude. In the other parishes, in which I have strictly adhered to the system, I have never heard any complaint of that sort; and in the chapelry of St. James it has always been managed by the farmers themselves; it is extremely popular with them; and it is their opinion that it has occasioned a saving to the parish, though there are only 35 allotments, of upwards of 200*l.* a year.

Is the rent you receive the same as the rent you receive from the farmers for land of the same quality?—It is rather more than I receive from the farmers, but I pay all tithes and taxes; but independently of that it is much the same; certainly not more. My object, in fact, is to make the rent precisely the same that the farmer's rent is. I do not conceive it ought to be a source of revenue to the landlord; because if he attains the object I had in view he has attained quite sufficient advantage, without increasing the amount of his income.

What is the extent of each allotment?—Our plan was, that the limits of it should be from one acre to a quarter of an acre; but owing to the irregularities to which I have before referred, in the parish of Long Newton and in the adjoining parish of Shipton, it varies from something under a quarter of an acre to the extent of two acres and a half; but my own opinion, from the experience I here had, is, that it should never exceed one acre, and I think it should never be less than half an acre; I think a quarter of an acre is too small.

Do they manage to keep the land under crop every year?—Yes, they do.

Is it all potatoes, or is there any variety?—In the northern part of Wiltshire they grow some wheat, but where that is the case there is generally a worse appearance system of farming carried on. Where they confine themselves to potatoes, the crops are generally better, and the farm is in a more flourishing state. I give a premium to the man that has the best crop of potatoes, as an inducement to them to cultivate that vegetable more than anything else: it is more immediately beneficial to the family than corn; and we know that if land in that part of the kingdom is frequently sown with wheat, the wheat becomes very poor and insufficient

T. G. R. Edwards,
Esq. &c.

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in crop; but, on the other hand, if potatoes are very frequently cultivated, and there is a good deal of manure, the return is very considerable.

Is harley much cultivated in that neighbourhood?—Yes, it is; but it is not a harley country.

Have the cottagers of whom you are speaking found any difficulty in procuring manure for as much as one acre of garden ground?—I think the cottagers never find any difficulty in procuring a sufficient quantity of manure for that portion of the acre that must necessarily be manured in the year; but I think they would find a difficulty in procuring as much as would be necessary to manure the whole acre; and it is impossible that the same land will produce the same vegetable every year for a very great number of years, without some art that probably the cottagers would be unable to supply.

In your opinion, would they always be enabled to provide sufficient for half an acre?—Quite.

Do they keep pigs?—A large proportion of them keep pigs. With respect to the subject of manure, I observed last summer a result which was whimsical, and satisfactory to a certain degree. I went to a market gardener's garden in the neighbourhood of Devizes, and I was inquiring about the mode in which he got manure, and he showed me some land that was cultivated with potatoes, which had a very abundant crop. He told me that he had manured it in the following way: that he had trenched the land in wideish trenches; that before planting the potatoes he had got nettles from the neighbourhood, and had laid them a considerable thickness in the furrow, that then upon the nettles he had planted his potatoes; that he had done so many years, and that invariably he had found that they had produced a much larger crop than any other sort of manure that he had made use of. That was only in the course of the last summer, and therefore I have had no opportunity of trying an experiment upon it yet.

Do you prescribe any routine of crops to your tenants?—No; I leave it to themselves. I have but three conditions: one is, that they shall receive no relief from the parish; another is, that they shall pay the rent on the day it is due; and the third is, that they shall quit if they are guilty of any offence for which they shall become liable to fine or imprisonment; and I am happy to say that no instance of that ever occurred, to my knowledge, excepting one, in which a man had stolen some turps from a neighbouring portion of land; that was represented to me, and of course I immediately turned him out.

Do those individuals who have a larger allotment of land, amounting to an acre or upwards, keep a cow?—None of them.

Do you permit them to grow wheat?—Yes, if they like it.

Do any of them cultivate cabbages?—I have observed in many instances a row of cabbages surrounding the wheat on the edge of the path, between the wheat land and the other land. I think the cabbages are merely for their own use.

Do you make any selection of the persons to whom you let the allotments?—In the neighbourhood of Devizes, I leave it entirely to the farmers to make the selection for me; but then I always have the approval; I always require that they should be men of good character.

Would you approve of extending the system of allotments to the whole of the labourers of the parish, subject to the same conditions that you now impose?—I should not, for this reason: if it were made universal, a great deal of the stimulus would be lost. I think the making a selection renders it an object of great desire; and many of those in the possession of it, I have no doubt, exert themselves to retain possession, not so much from an anxiety to maintain themselves without the assistance of the poor's rate, as to keep possession of that which they know is desired by some other person. I am afraid that is a feeling which is very general among mankind; and I think it probable that it operates to a very considerable extent in that as well as in other classes of society.

Can you speak as to the effect of this upon the poor's rates in any of the parishes in Gloucestershire or Wiltshire?—I have brought a return of the state of the poor's rate in the parish of Long Newton for the last 30 years.

[The same is delivered in and read, and is as follows:]

RATES raised in the Parish of Long Newton in the County of Wilts, for the Relief of the Poor; and the Appropriation thereof.

T. G. E. Estcourt,
Esq. M. P.

18 March 1831.

YEAR.	Rate raised.	Applied to County Rate.	Expended in Relief.	Total Expended.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1793	92 14 -	1 1 8	91 12 -	92 13 8
1799	94 5 9	1 1 8	93 4 1	94 5 9
1800	137 4 1	10 16 8	126 7 5	137 4 1
1801	333 12 2	7 19 8	324 13 6	
1802	325 - 1	9 5 6	315 14 7	
1803	110 3 10	6 10 -	103 13 10	
1804	72 - 6	2 3 8	69 16 10	
1805	50 7 1	13 1 -	37 6 1	
1806	77 - 11	5 8 8	71 12 3	
1807	103 13 9	17 6 8	86 7 1	
1808	117 16 10	13 - -	104 16 10	
1809				
1810	148 7 10	14 12 6	134 15 4	
1811	226 6 10	24 8 -	201 17 2	
1812	196 13 6	24 8 6	172 5 -	
1813	219 1 10	24 8 -	195 13 10	
1814	197 - 7	30 - -	167 - -	
1815	197 - -	27 - -	170 - -	
1816	263 - -	25 - -	238 - -	
1817	204 - -	24 - -	180 - -	
1818	205 - -	17 - -	188 - -	
1819	216 - -	18 - -	198 - -	
1820	202 - -	32 - -	170 - -	
1821	202 - -	24 - -	178 - -	
1822	205 - -	34 - -	191 - -	
1823	205 - -	22 - -	173 - -	
1824	136 - -	26 - -	110 - -	
1825	224 - -	40 - -	184 - -	
1826	221 - -	48 - -	173 - -	
1827	192 - -	34 - -	158 - -	
1828	192 - -	30 - -	162 - -	
1829	171 - -	36 - -	135 - -	

To what cause do you attribute the rise in 1816, and the subsequent decrease?
—I am not aware of any particular cause that should have occasioned the rise, or indeed the decrease.

Was not 1816 a year of the greatest agricultural pressure of any that has been experienced; and was it not in the following year that 260 banks broke out of 700?—Probably that may have been the case.

Would not that affect the general system of agriculture through the kingdom?
—I think, very probably, it would. I think it is more than probable that to that cause we may assign the increase in the year 1816; because I observed, in 1815 it was 197, and in 1817 only 204, and the year 1817 was the year that the Committee sat in the House of Commons upon the Poor Laws, in consequence of the excessive state of distress.

What has been the usual rate of labourers wages in that neighbourhood for the last year or two?—I think in the winter the average is 5s. a week, and in the summer about 9s. or 10s.

Is it usual to let out work by the piece?—Very usual.

Are there many employed as day-labourers?—There are a great many employed as day-labourers, but there are a good many employed also at piece work; and where they are employed at piece work the wages are considerably more. By piece work a good labourer may earn in that parish from 10s. to 15s. a week; whilst the same labourer at day work, would not earn more than 9s. and his beer, which is commonly estimated at 1s. 6d. a week.

Is there any preference given to married men over single men in the selection of these labourers?—I think not, in that parish; but when I say not in that parish, I must confine that answer to that parish only; I am afraid that in the adjoining parishes, and in the central parts of Wiltshire, the evil arising from the selection of married men is very considerable.

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Are there any labourers out of employment in that parish?—I am not aware of any; and it is the opinion of an intelligent farmer there, that if the farmers employed none but their own parishioners there would be none out of employment at any time, and in the summer that there would certainly not be sufficient to execute the work that is required to be done in the parish.

Can you state the number of acres in the parish, and the amount of the population?—I think about 3,000 acres, and the population in 1821 was 306.

Is there any employment for the women and children?—None. Formerly it was within the reach of the manufacturing district of Gloucester, and the women and children were constantly employed in spinning; that is now totally lost.

What are the rents of the cottages in the parish generally?—From 3*l.* to 3*s.*, but the average rate is about 5*s.*

Are the cottages in the hands of the large proprietors, or in the hands of small tradesmen?—They are all of them in the hands of the large proprietors.

Can you state the effect upon the morals of the people, and their religious principles, since this plan has been adopted?—I am not prepared to answer that question, for I have not resided in that neighbourhood myself; but I should say, generally that they are a moral people, and I believe they are attentive to their religious duties. As to the general state of the apparel and cottages of the poor in the parish of Long Newton, I think it is superior to that of any other parish that I know; and from that one may infer that they are in a state of comparative ease.

Has the population increased rapidly in that parish?—No, I am not aware that it has.

Do early marriages take place there now?—Yes, they do; very early marriages. More so than in the neighbouring districts?—I think much the same.

Is there any benefit society there?—At Tetbury I believe there are several, but none in the parish.

Has it come to your knowledge that those people have placed any of their savings in benefit societies or in savings banks?—I believe a very small quantity.

When those persons had larger allotments of land, did any of them keep cows?—None of them; they had no convenience for keeping cows, nor had they any pasture land.

When they had an acre and a half or two acres, did they cultivate that entirely with the spade, or did they employ the plough?—Professedly they cultivate under the spade, but, occasionally, I think they get their masters to give them some assistance in ploughing it.

You do not interfere in that matter?—Not at all. I have always purposely avoided much interference; because I think it creates a suspicion that that which is done is done for my benefit, and not for the benefit of the poor people to whom the land is let.

Can you speak as to the distance from their cottages to which it answers to them to cultivate those allotments?—I think any distance within a mile; indeed I know many instances where poor people have gladly rented land and gone three miles.

Is not the advantage of the land proportionate to the proximity of the land, from the facility of procuring manure and carrying it?—I think it is of very great advantage that it should be near their residence; but I do not know that it is in proportion to the proximity.

How do they get the carriage done?—I think it is generally an arrangement between themselves and some kind friend. Some of them have a horse and cart of their own; some get the assistance of neighbours; and the farmers are not disinclined to give them a little assistance, if they behave well in their place. I was asked with regard to the rate of wages in the parish of Long Newton; there is a considerable difference between the rate of wages in that part of Wiltshire and the rate of wages in the central part of Wiltshire; in the central and southern part the wages are considerably lower than they are in the northern. For a great length of time, in both parts, it has been an invariable practice of overseers, where persons are receiving a very low rate of wages, and requiring much more than their wages to maintain their families, to make up the difference out of the poor's rates; and the consequence has been, that in some of those parishes they have reduced the wages to a very low amount; and I am sorry to say, that to that we in a great measure attribute the unfortunate state of insurrection in which the southern part of the country was during the last autumn. I have brought

brought with me a return which was prepared by the Reverend Mr. Hodson, the chaplain of the county gaol of Wiltshire, with respect to 101 persons who were committed to prison, and tried at the late special commission for the county of Wilts, stating the names of the individuals, their age and profession, also the parish in which they resided, and the rate of wages they received weekly, and the amount of parish relief they received in addition. The persons to whom it relates came from a number of parishes in the southern part of the county. It appears by this return, that out of the 101 individuals, one of them received 15 s. per week; one of them received 12 s. per week; one of them received 9 s. per week; 17 of them received 8 s. per week; one of them received 7 s. 3 d. per week; 48 of them received 7 s. per week; three of them received 6 s. 6 d. per week; nine of them received 6 s. per week; eight of them received 5 s. per week; five of them received 4 s. per week; six of them received 3 s. per week, and one of them received 2 s. 6 d. per week.

Will you have the goodness to deliver in that document?

[The same is delivered in, and laid upon the Table.—See Appendix.]

Have you had an opportunity of observing, whether, in cases where the labourer's wages are made up out of the poor's rates, they are managed as economically as where the labourer receives the same amount entirely in consequence of his labour?—Perhaps I am not a fair judge of that, but I am inclined to believe that they are quite as economically managed; and the wonder has always been to me, how it is possible that any persons can manage so small a sum as the wages amount to so economically as the poor do.

Is any addition made to the wages in harvest?—There is, invariably, I believe.

To what amount?—I think, upon the average, 2 s. a week in addition; from 1 s. to 10 s. a week is the harvest price, and they generally add a pound for the harvest month.

Have you known the wages of harvest depressed by any influx of Irish labourers?—Not in that part of Wiltshire or Gloucestershire with which I have any connection; but I am perfectly aware that in many parishes adjoining the great road from Bristol to London, but nearer the metropolis than those parts of the counties with which I am connected, it has the effect of depressing the amount of wages. But, as I am asked that question, I must state, that very great injury is sustained by the county of Wilts from the expense of conveying those labourers from London to Bristol, and which has cost the county of Wilts during the last 10 years, upon an average, about 1,000 l. a year, the county deriving no benefit whatever from the services of those individuals.

Would you say that Mr. Sturges Bourne's Bill has tended to improve or to reduce the condition of the labouring people?—I think, in the county of Wilts, it has had no effect whatever, one way or the other.

Do you think that the condition of the labouring class is better in the central part of Wiltshire than in the southern district, to which the statement you have given applies?—I think it very much similar to the southern parts of the county.

Is fuel very dear in that part?—Not very dear. Coal may be obtained in small quantities at about 1 s. 2 d. a hundred. Wood is scarcely to be obtained in either the central part, or, I believe, in the southern part.

Should you say that the condition of the people in the parish of Shipton in Gloucestershire is better than in the parish of Long Newton in Wiltshire, to which you have applied your statement?—I think not. I think that the state of the poor in the parish of Shipton Moyne in Gloucestershire corresponds so much with the state of the poor in the parish of Long Newton as that what I state with reference to the latter would apply very much to that of the former.

Have there been many manufacturers in that part of the country?—It is about seven miles from the nearest large manufactory in Gloucestershire.

Do you consider that manufactory to be of late years in a declining condition?—I think not; I believe it is in a flourishing state; but as the manufactures are now entirely carried on in factories, the manufacture may be said to be on the decline with reference to all parishes in the vicinity; and I believe that we are suffering from the total loss of that employment which used to be furnished to the adjoining parishes in spinning.

What kind of manufacture is carried on in that neighbourhood?—The manufacture of cloth of the finest quality.

Have you turned your attention to the amount paid out of the poor's rates in aid of wages?—I frequently turn my attention to the subject; and I have some statements

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statements with respect to three parishes in Wiltshire, and one in Nottinghamshire, in which I have always understood that that injurious practice does not prevail at all. In the three parishes in Wiltshire it does prevail, and though not to the extent I had expected, I believe the injurious consequence is the same as if it were to a much larger extent; for where the practice is in existence at all, it enables the payer of wages to satisfy the immediate wants of the labourer, by charging the poor's rate to any extent that he may think fit; to abstract wages from that sum necessary to satisfy such immediate wants; and thus to depress the nominal amount of wages, or, in other words, the sum which he pays to his working people for their labour.

Will you have the goodness to deliver in those statements?

[The same are delivered in, and read, and are as follow:]

EXPENDITURE by the Overseers of the Parish of Newton, from the 29th September 1829 to the 29th September 1830.

	£.	s.	d.
County rates	-	-	-
Maintenance of lunatic paupers in asylums	-	-	-
Surgeons	-	-	-
House-rent paid for poor people	-	-	-
Weekly relief to families or individuals, to make up their amount of earnings sufficient for their maintenance, at 9 s. per week and beer in summer, and at 8 s. per week in winter	-	-	-
Men having families working by the day, if 9 s. is not sufficient, their rent paid.	-	-	-
Unemployed Labourers:			
To 21st December	-	-	-
To 25th March	-	-	-
To 24th June	-	-	-
To 29th September	-	-	-
Maintenance of old and infirm parishioners' children, including bastards	-	-	-
Incidental expenses, including burials of paupers	-	-	-
TOTAL	£.	-	-
	302	17	4

EXPENDITURE by the Overseers of the Parish of Kington St. Michael, from the 29th September 1829 to the 29th September 1830.

	£.	s.	d.	
County rates	80	2	-	
Maintenance of lunatic paupers in asylums	25	14	6	
Surgeon	20	4	7	
Overseer	-	-	-	Nil.
Maintenance of old and infirm persons	205	2	-	
Ditto of bastards	15	12	-	
Ditto of widows, single women and orphans, unable to earn their own maintenance	108	19	7	
House-rent paid for 26 families or individuals	61	5	6	
Weekly relief to 27 families or individuals, to make up the amount of their earnings sufficient for their maintenance, at per week to each	104	10	1	
Sums paid to able-bodied Labourers †:				
1st. When employed on account of the parish:				
Quarter ending 21st Dec. 1829	Nil.			
Ditto - - 25th March 1830	Nil.			
Ditto - - 24th June 1830	Nil.			
Ditto - - 29th Sept. 1830	Nil.			
2dly. When unemployed:				
Quarter ending 21st Dec. 1829	1	10	10	
Ditto - - 25th March 1830	3	19	3½	
Ditto - - 24th June 1830	8	7	3	
Ditto - - 29th Sept. 1830	1	2	7½	
Incidental expenses, including burials, &c.	47	15	4½	
TOTAL	800	5	7½	

* This is the amount paid in the year. We have some large families in the parish; and by our scale of allowance, a man, his wife and three children, (when bread is 1 s. 6 d. per gallon,) would be allowed 9 s. 6 d. per week, if unemployed, and 1 s. 6 d. per week in addition for every child above that number, if unable to work.

† We have none employed on account of the parish, excepting those on the highways, which are paid by the waywardens, and no more than sufficient to keep them in repair.

S. U. Saller, Churchwarden.

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EXPENDITURE of the Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of Dossion, from the 29th September 1829 to 29th September 1830.

T. G. R. Estcourt,
Esq. M. P.

18 March 1831.

	£.	s.	d.	
County rates	116	2	—	
Maintenance of lunatic paupers in asylums	30	15	6	
Surgeon	111	6	8	
Overseer	44	—	—	
Maintenance of old and infirm persons	984	1	1	
Ditto of bastards	165	8	9	
Ditto of widows, single women and orphans unable to earn their own maintenance	500	14	—	
House-rent paid for families or individuals	92	9	6	
Weekly relief to families or individuals, to make up the amount of their earnings sufficient for their maintenance, at per week to each	158	13	—	
Sums paid able-bodied Labourers:				
1st, When employed on account of the parish:				
Quarter ending 21st Dec. 1829	67	4	11	
Ditto - 25th March 1830	213	16	—	
Ditto - 24th June 1830	98	18	—	
Ditto - 29th Sept. 1830	31	10	1	
2dly, When unemployed:				
Quarter ending 21st Dec. 1829	NIL			
Ditto - 25th March 1830	NIL			
Ditto - 24th June 1830	NIL			
Ditto - 29th Sept. 1830	NIL			
Incidental expenses, including burials, &c.	336	8	3½	
TOTAL	4509	9	2½	

REMARKS:

Average amount of wages, 10 s. per week; neither beer nor food allowed.

Eighty-seven men (supernumerary labourers) sent by the overseers to the respective occupiers of land, at present employed in spade husbandry, and paid by their employers.

EXPENDITURE by the Overseers of the Parish of Redcliffe-on-Trent, Notts, from the 29th September 1829 to 29th September 1830.

	£.	s.	d.	
County rates	30	8	6	
Maintenance of lunatic paupers in asylums	NIL			
Surgeon	8	—	—	
Overseer and constable	8	8	—	
Maintenance of old and infirm persons	106	—	—	
Ditto of bastards	14	—	—	
Ditto of widows, single women*, and orphans unable to earn a maintenance	NIL			
Relief to families or individuals, to make up the amount of their earnings sufficient for their maintenance, at per week each †	NIL			
Sums paid to able-bodied Labourers:				
1st, When employed on account of the parish ‡:				
From the quarter ending the 21st Dec. 1829 to the quarter ending 29th Sept. 1830	36	8	9	
2dly, When unemployed:				
Quarter ending 21st Dec. 1829	NIL			
Ditto - 25th March 1830	NIL			
Ditto - 24th June 1830	NIL			
Ditto - 29th Sept. 1830	NIL			
Incidental expenses §, including burials and house-rent, for families or individuals	54	11	6	
TOTAL	284	16	9	

REMARKS:

The population of the parish of Redcliffe is something above 1,200, consisting of farmers, agricultural labourers, & boatmen engaged in the navigation of the Trent.

There are in the parish 1,824 acres. The whole of the rates may be, upon the real value, about 1 s. 6 d. in the pound.

* What widows or single women receive relief are comprised in the above head of infirm persons, being usually old. An active woman can support herself by working the Nottingham nettle raising, as they call it here.

† Nothing is ever given to make up wages. Wages average 11 s. a week.

‡ The only labourers employed by the parish are those on the roads; of these there are all the year round two, neither of them able-bodied, who are paid 6 s. a week; which, with a few odd days to others, makes up the amount. I did not therefore think it necessary to separate it into the quarters.

§ Very many things come into this head of incidental expenses, such as constables, journeys, removals, subscription to infirmary, casual expenses in consequence of sickness, &c. &c. Nothing is allowed in the way of house-rent. Accounts containing such an item would not be passed by the magistrates.

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Is the payment generally regulated by a scale in Wiltshire?—Very generally by a scale.

Has the question of the legality ever been agitated in Wiltshire?—I believe it has never been agitated; but I believe there is not a magistrate that is not aware that it is illegal. At a late quarter session in the county of Wilts a proposition was made to the magistrates to come to a resolution not to pass any overseer's accounts which contained any charge of that description; but that proposition was not acceded to, because it was considered, that before a measure so strong as that could be adopted, some means must be afforded to the overseers to find employment for those labourers that would necessarily be thrown out of work.

Did the resolution go to refuse the payment in cases where the labourers were wholly employed by the parish, or only in cases where the wages were made up to the labourers by the parish?—Only to where the wages were made up out of the poor's rates.

Why was it then necessary to afford the means of employing the poor?—Because it was considered that the effect would be to throw out of employment the married labourers with large families, and it was supposed that those labourers were, in agricultural parishes, generally speaking, the people of the best character, who had been probably longest in their employment. But where no part of the wages were to be paid out of the poor's rates, it was clear that the farmers would be unwilling or unable to continue those people in their employment, when young and single men might be obtained at wages considerably lower; and in Wiltshire we know of no means that the overseers would have of employing those married men, assumed to be men of good character, excepting in that sort of work in which single men had been employed, and which was notoriously given to those single men for the purpose of deterring them from continuing to be a charge upon the poor's rates, and as much as possible to induce them to find employment for themselves, but which, as they continued to be a charge upon the parish, we inferred that it was not possible for them to do.

Would not the effect of putting a stop to the practice of paying part of the wages out of the poor's rates be, to equalize the wages of the married and single men according to the value of the work which they do?—I think it would; but if the work to be found by the occupiers of the soil in their ordinary cultivation of the land was insufficient to employ the whole of the working population, some means, not at present known, must be devised for employing those that could not be occupied in that way.

Is it your opinion, then, that a superabundance of population beyond the present means of employment exists?—Very generally so, but not always.

Do you believe, that if capital could be found, such improvement would take place in the cultivation of the land as would afford employment to the whole of that population at present superabundant?—I am not prepared to answer that question; but so long as agriculture is not conducted on the same principles on which horticulture is conducted, I am led to infer that there might be a greater quantity of capital employed, and perhaps of human labour, with advantage.

Then you do not believe that we have arrived at that point when it is necessary to resort to foreign countries for the employment of our labouring population?—I certainly do not think it is. I think it probable that a temporary convenience might arise from the adoption of emigration; but I am far from admitting that the burden of population is so great as to render emigration absolutely necessary.

If by any temporary expedient the present weight of the superabundant population were removed, are you of opinion that by a proper recurrence to the just administration of the poor laws such future inconvenience would be checked, if not altogether prevented?—I think, that if an arrangement was to take place in the poor laws, which would render the future administration of them better than that which now prevails, the evil now complained of might without difficulty be remedied, even without having recourse to any temporary expedient. I am not prepared to say what I consider would be the result of the adoption of a temporary expedient of a violent nature; I mean the removal of a large proportion of the population; but unless that expedient was applied to a very considerable extent, I apprehend that the effect would not be felt at all in the first instance, and therefore I should rather see such alterations made as would amend the Poor Laws, than that at present any application should be made to those temporary expedients.

Without such a violent expedient as the removal of the poor, do you think that any good could be obtained by the cultivation of the waste lands in different parts

of the country?—I am not aware where those wastes are situated, of which I hear a great deal, unless reference be made to the Royal Forests. I think, in the part of the country with which I am acquainted, the first step to take would be to abolish that injurious system of the payment of wages that I have talked of; but before that is done, I think it essentially necessary that a law should pass, enabling the majority of a parish vestry, duly assembled for the purpose, to appropriate the parish funds without being subject to any appeal whatever. Should such a law as that pass, the majority of the vestry would then be enabled to take prompt and effectual means for providing occupation for the poor. After that was accomplished, I think there are many other alterations that would essentially serve to improve the condition of the lower class of people; and that, added to the furnishing them with constant employment, would, in my opinion, tend to improve their condition and their morality, and I think would tend very much to mitigate the suffering that is complained of now. I allude to those laws which place the labourers in a different situation from that of other persons, who bring their goods to market and sell them without control, and to the laws relating to bastardy. With regard to the first, I think great injury arises from that code of laws that gives the intervention of a justice of the peace between the labourer and his employer. Every act of misconduct on the part of the servant, instead of being punished in the way in which misconduct in other servants is punished, namely, by being dismissed, and his character affected, is punished by his being conveyed to a magistrate, who probably is reduced to the necessity of sending that person to gaol. The consequence of which is, that a question is made as to the justice or injustice of the decision of the magistrate. The delinquent is looked upon as oppressed; he is commiserated; and when he comes out of gaol, he is considered to have expiated his offence; but the communications which he has had with other prisoners, in every instance in which I have been able to make any observation, are extremely detrimental. Nothing appears to me now, from the excessive extent of our legislation of late years, to be left to character; a punishment is provided for every petty offence that the lower class of people can be guilty of, and I believe that the most injurious consequences have arisen from that circumstance. In order to explain myself, I would take the liberty of suggesting to your Lordships that a labouring servant might be placed upon the same footing with any domestic in your Lordships' service. If a man who is receiving the small wages of which we all complain, had made an engagement to work for any given length of time with an employer, when the period of the year came that better wages could be obtained, he would naturally go to his master, and he would complain of the smallness of his wages, and state their insufficiency for the maintenance of his family: he would desire either an increase of wages or to be dismissed. If both were refused, he would very naturally remove himself from that service, and procure service where wages were better. The apprehension on the part of the farmers, as often mentioned to me, is, that if such were the case at trying seasons of the year, for instance, in catching weather in the harvest time, they would lose their servants, provided they had the power of leaving them when they pleased. In reply, I have always asked this question: "Why do you suppose they would leave you under those circumstances?" "They have always said they would leave us, because we would not give them greater wages." "But, supposing you did give them greater wages, do you think they would then stay?" "Yes;" they said they thought there was no reason why they should not stay. "Well, but would the wages you would have to give be very extravagant?" "Yes; they would be a great deal higher than those at present given." "But surely not higher than those which your neighbours would give, or than the labour would be worth?" They said, No, they did not suppose they would; but they should be obliged to give as much as any person in the neighbourhood would give. This has always appeared to me to be the standard of the wages that they ought to give, and not that which is much less than the labour of a good workman would be worth. The consequence of this would be, that if the farmer found that he had not the means by law of retaining in his service an unfortunate labourer at inadequate wages, and that he was obliged to give a very considerable sum of money, he would of course determine with himself that he would employ no person that he could not depend upon; and when a man came to him for employment, the first question that he would ask of him would be, where he came from, and who there is that would answer for his character. The moment that we have arrived at that point, character would be of some value. At the present

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moment, I can state, that, in the county of Wilts and the adjoining counties, the character of a poor man is of no value at all; and that any labouring man who is strong, however bad his character, who will work for a smaller sum than a man of good character, will be as readily employed now as a man of good character, because the employer considers that in the tread-mill he has the remedy against his servant's misconduct. Therefore I consider that the first step towards the improvement of the lower classes would be, to raise their character, by making their engagements and continuance in their service dependent upon their character and their conduct, which is not the case at present.

What occupation do you contemplate could be found for the labouring classes, if the parish vestries were allowed to apply their funds as they might deem expedient, without any appeal?—I think spade husbandry, to a very great extent.

Do not you think that the low price of wages, arising from the superabundance of labourers, combined with the necessity under which the parish lie to maintain the labourer and his family, very much contribute to produce the little value of character?—I think in a great measure it does; but I think that both the one and the other arise from the exercise of control under legal authority, instead of exercising a control dependent upon character.

Does not the law of settlement very much prevent the operation of character; by rendering the labourers more dependent upon the farmers of their parish, or upon the vestry regulations?—I think the law of settlement, except as connected with that upon which I have troubled your Lordships, does not materially affect character; but if it was intended by any legislative enactment, to do that which I urge, I think it would become essentially necessary to alter the law of settlement, so as to enable the labouring population to carry to a fair market the only article they have to offer, namely, their labour; and with that view I think it quite essential that the law of settlement should be altered, so far as to repeal the whole of the statutes relating to settlement by hiring and service; and I think that it is consistent with common sense, that that which has been called gaining a settlement by such contingencies as hiring and service should be abolished, because, although it is called gaining a settlement, it is in fact a deprivation of the settlement to which the individual is most naturally and most nearly attached; and, besides that, it always has appeared to me to be consistent with good sense that the settlement of every individual should have relation to his connection, in some way or another, with the soil, such as by the ownership, or by renting, or by some act or another which has relation to the soil. All other attachments are transitory, and appear to me to be accidental.

You have stated that the first mode of occupation which you would propose would be spade husbandry, to a considerable extent; will you state under what regulations you would propose that that should be adopted?—I have never applied my mind to the details of it, and therefore I am not prepared to state that; but I think the conditions attendant upon that must very much depend upon the country in which it is practised.

Have you any doubt that it could be beneficially put in practice, so as to remunerate the parish for the expenditure?—I have no doubt the parish might be remunerated to a considerable extent; but I am not prepared to say, that, in the present state of the agricultural world, they would be prepared to avail themselves of it to the extent that some people might consider to be beneficial, because the expense of cultivating an acre of land by the spade is considerably more than that of ploughing it.

You state that another great evil of the present law is the Bastardy Laws; will you have the goodness to state in what respect you consider them an evil, and how you think they might be remedied?—I think them a very great evil, as having tended very much to the increase of immorality. Under the Bastardy Laws, as a bastard is certain of being maintained either by the parish or by the father, one of the inconveniences resulting from having bastard children, is altogether removed from the female; I think that might be very much remedied by an alteration that should make the mother responsible for the maintenance of the child, instead of the father; and if I was to state the alterations that I think would be desirable, it would be, in the first place, as I stated just now, to make the mother responsible for the maintenance of the child; to deprive that child of all those benefits that a legitimate child possesses, as far as parochial advantages go, until that child, by its own act, had gained a settlement, and had acquired the advantages which legitimate children possess. If it is asked, how is the child

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child to be maintained, in the case of the mother dying, or in the case of excessive sickness, and so forth? the only answer would be, that it must be treated as a foreigner would be treated, as casual poor. With regard to the father, I think we increase the evil; because we now charge the father with a sum of money, insufficient for the maintenance of the child, but quite sufficient to relieve his conscience from any regret, even at having been the father of a child that is likely to bring distress upon the mother of it; he considers himself as completely white-washed if he pays a given sum weekly for the maintenance; but the consequence of that is, also, that if the father becomes distressed for want of labour, and wages, he runs into debt to the parish; and then, having a considerable sum of money to make up, he is obliged to flee his parish, and absent himself for a considerable length of time, perhaps. But then another misfortune arises out of that: when the sum of money, by accumulation, becomes a very great debt, he then questions within himself, whether it is not better to come and surrender himself to his parish, and undergo a short punishment (that is, imprisonment for three months) or altogether to continue always from his parish; if the sum of money be large, he generally decides that it is better to return to his parish. If he has the judgment that most of that class of persons have, to yield himself up about the latter part of the year, those three months are passed, in the improved houses of correction that now exist, not uncomfortably, and certainly very profitably; because, at the very moment he puts his feet into the gaol, from that moment his debt becomes liquidated. Therefore the law, as it now stands, is no terror whatever to those who are of an immoral disposition; nor do I believe it ever was intended as such, but that the principle of the law is, to provide maintenance for the bastard child, and to indemnify the parish against any debts that may be incurred. According to my mind, that is a very inconvenient mode of managing the subject; and I will state an instance that came within my knowledge within these three years. In the house of correction for Wiltshire there had been, in one year, 68 men confined under the Bastardy Laws. I took some pains to ascertain what the loss was that the country and the parishes sustained by those 68 men, and I found that it amounted to upwards of 570*l*. Now your Lordships will see that it was no bad bargain that these 68 men made, to lie in the prison, a great proportion during the autumnal and winter months, thereby totally liquidating their debts; the county and parishes being of course left to suffer from the loss. Therefore the mode I would suggest of treating that would be, as far as the mother is concerned, to make her responsible for the maintenance of the child; which I think would go far to deter her from the commission of the offence. With regard to the father, I would treat his bringing upon the parish the charge and maintenance of a bastard child as a misdemeanor, to be punished by fine or imprisonment; and therefore, whenever his bastard child, if it was every year for 10 years, till the child could maintain itself, or if it was every three months, or every other month, at every period at which it became chargeable to the parish, I would consider that man as guilty of a misdemeanor, and liable to be punished by fine or imprisonment. My belief is, that if it was so treated, the number of bastardy cases would diminish very rapidly.

What do you contemplate for the woman, in case of her being unable to provide for the child, which it is reasonable to suppose would be very often the case?—I should treat her exactly as I would treat a widow woman with one child in a foreign parish; I should treat her and her child as casual poor.

Would it then be any punishment upon her?—The administration of the poor funds, by giving relief to a woman casually, would be very different from the way in which it is now administered, by giving regular weekly pay; for she could not calculate upon any relief at all; for the parish might find her some employment, and make her, out of her earnings, provide for the child. At the present moment they can do no such thing: at the present moment the parish are obliged to pay that sum of money which the father is ordered to furnish towards the maintenance of the child; and some women that have three or four bastard children have a considerable revenue arising from the sum paid for their maintenance.

In the event of the woman refusing to exert herself for the maintenance of the child, would you not have to commit her to prison?—I think a provision of that sort might be similar to the provision that is made in the case of other persons not maintaining their families when they are enabled so to do.

Is it not your opinion, that in the great majority of cases the ultimate consequence would be, that the woman would be committed to prison for not maintaining the

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the child?—I think in many cases it would, but not in the majority of cases. I think the large majority of those persons, knowing now that no punishment will fall upon them, are heedless as to their contingency; but if they were punished by imprisonment for the non-maintenance of the bastard child, I suspect that the fear of that would induce them, either to maintain their bastard child, or not so lightly as at present to yield to their seducers.

Would not the effect of your proposition be to render the father penally responsible?—Yes.

Do you not think that that penal law would become very much inoperative, from the indisposition of the parishes to prosecute, and the little immediate interest they have in doing so?—I think not; because the eyes of overseers are pretty sharp with reference to bastards, generally; and as still they would be liable to a burden brought upon them in the shape of casual poor, it would be a great object with them to get hold of the father; supposing that the law gave to them any remedy in the shape of fine, by way of exonerating from those charges that might be brought upon them. I think, in the enactment I propose, an arrangement of that sort might be made, which would induce the parishes to be vigilant with respect to the punishment of the father.

Then you would impose fine as well as imprisonment?—Yes. In fact I should make the fine the primary punishment; and in case of not being able to pay the fine, I should impose imprisonment; but I should give a very wide discretion to magistrates to impose either a moderate or heavy fine; a fine extending, perhaps, from 40*s.* to 40*l.* Supposing a man, in circumstances of life enabling him to maintain a child, were so to forget himself, and to be so inhuman, as to suffer that child to become a charge upon the parish, I should have no hesitation in inflicting upon that man a fine of 40*l.* or 50*l.*; and that fine might be applied to the proper education of the child, under such circumstances.

Would it not be likely to resolve itself into the present practice, that the fine would be paid by instalments, and the maintenance of the child would be thrown upon the father?—It might, possibly; but it seems to me, that at the present moment the law rather encourages the practice than discourages it; and the treating it penally, in some way or other, I think might be a better mode of treating such a crime than as it is now treated.

Do you think that the practice of paying part of the wages of labour out of the poor's rates is of so much extent as to require some declaratory law of the illegality of such a practice?—I do not think it necessary; because I believe the law to be quite sufficient as it stands. I think a declaratory law might be useful; but I am not prepared to acquiesce in any law of that sort, unless it were guarded in the way I have described, by some means of finding employment for the poor that would be thrown out of employment by it.

And the mode you would suggest for that purpose would be to empower the vestry to apply their funds to such subjects as might appear to them desirable, without appeal?—Yes, for that purpose.

Would it not, in your opinion, be advisable to extend the facilities now given to overseers, in order to enable them to give small allotments of land to the poor?—I know of no reason why there should be any limitation to the powers given to the overseers in providing land for the poor; and under a select vestry, I think it would be very desirable to give much larger power to vestries than at present exist.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, Twelve o'clock.

Die Martis, 22^o Martii, 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Order of Adjournment read.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Friday next, Twelve o'clock.

Die Veneris, 25^o Martii 1831.

THE DUKE OF RICHMOND IN THE CHAIR.

Francis Pym, Junior, Esquire, is called in; and Examined, as follows:

YOU have resided for some years in the county of Cambridge, and have acted as a magistrate?—I have resided about twelve years in the county; the first seven at Kneesworth, in Royston, and the last five in the north-west part of the county, at Longstowe, near Caxton.

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Esq.*

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Have you turned your attention to the subject of the Poor Laws, and any improvements that might be made in the administration of them?—Yes; I have turned my attention to them of necessity, from having had a great deal of business as a magistrate, there being very few resident in that part of the county. It is entirely an agricultural district; and certainly the conclusion which I have come to upon the Poor Laws generally is, that they hold out expectations to the Poor which they cannot realize, and lead them to depend upon their parishes more than upon their own exertions. In explaining my views of the Poor Laws generally, and it would be as well to divide the subject into different branches, I would first take that which I suppose was the original intention of the Poor Laws, namely, to provide for those who from old age, sickness and infirmity, are unable to provide for themselves. Upon that point I need not say much; but there is one view in which I think even this is injurious, and that is, that parents and children cease to feel mutual dependence upon each other, and are too much inclined to look to the parish, where they ought to support and assist each other. I could mention many instances in different places, but perhaps that is not necessary. The next branch of the subject is the providing for able-bodied Labourers, which in our part of the country, and I believe in most others, has of late years formed a material part of the business of the magistrates in the administration of the Poor Laws. Upon that subject it certainly appears to me that the effect of this interference is to lower the wages of labour very much, and to deprive the Labourer of that great spring of exertion, the necessity of being obliged to provide for himself and his family. From the wages of labour being thus mixed up with relief, and a great deal of it going through the hands of the overseers, (persons applying to them when they cannot get work for themselves,) it has led to single men and young men receiving lower wages than men with families; in fact, when application is made for parish work, men are paid more according to their families than according to the real value of their labour. This is a temptation to early marriages, and destroys all encouragement to industry. Another branch of the subject is the Settlement Laws, which have the effect of confining persons to particular parishes; it makes farmers unwilling to hire servants, for fear of conferring settlements upon them from other parishes; and I have also found that young Labourers are unwilling to let themselves by the year to be under the control of a master; they had rather take their chance of the parish assistance in the winter, and in the summer being thrown upon their own resources, when they can get better wages, which they generally spend as fast as they get them. The Settlement Laws also, I think, prevent proprietors from building cottages which they would do, for fear of increasing the number that are chargeable to the parishes; and it is a remark which I have found true myself, and it has been confirmed by the experience of others, very generally, that those are the best, the most industrious, and frugal Labourers, who reside in parishes to which they do not belong. Another branch of the subject is the Bastardy Laws, which appear to have been intended to protect parishes from the expense of bastard children, but, in fact, they throw the burden of their maintenance upon

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parishes, from the inability of the fathers to pay, and the expense and trouble of going after them. Very often a man who has had one or two children sworn to him marries, and in a few years has a wife and a large family to maintain. In this last year I have been obliged to grant warrants against several under those circumstances, who could not possibly pay for the support of their bastard children. All this is attended with expense to the parishes; but there is one part of the subject which I think is more injurious than what I have mentioned; it is the effect upon the female character. Of the many hundreds that have come before me, I have very rarely seen any thing like a feeling of shame, or any proper feeling upon the subject. They consider that their children will be provided for, they will have an excuse for not going out to service, and they rather seem to glory in it.

What is the practice in your neighbourhood as to making a mother pay for her child?—In making orders of affiliation, we always put down the same sum for the mother that we do for the father. In general the mothers nurse the children themselves, and the form of the order is to pay so much a week, provided they do not nurse the children themselves; but when the women can get out to service, which sometimes happens, they are occasionally called upon to support the children, in part, themselves; and we have lately adopted a practice in the division where I reside, of putting a higher sum than is usual upon both father and mother, that, according to circumstances, there may be an opportunity of recovering it. I would say, with regard to the Poor generally, that a reference to the Poor Laws and to parish support, enters into all their plans and arrangements in every thing that they do—in their marriages, in bringing up children, and also in the way in which they spend their money. In the course of the summer months, when they do earn more, and particularly after harvest, instead of making those provisions which they used to do for fuel and other things, a great deal of their money is spent, though the wages are not high, at feasts and fairs, which we have in all our villages, and there is a great deal of extravagance among them, which their circumstances cannot justify, and a great deal is spent in beer.

Do you ever lend them any money at those times of the year when they are most distressed, requiring them to repay it when their wages are higher?—We do to some of the little tradesmen, whose trade is sometimes at a stand-still in the winter, and in some instances it is repaid. I know there is a power of recovering it, but often it is very difficult to do it. In the early part of 1829, finding the ill effects which arose from the general administration of the Poor Laws in our own county, the magistrates agreed to a circular at the adjourned quarter sessions, which they sent to the overseers in all the parishes, a copy of which I have here.

[The Witness delivers in the same, which is read.]

(See Appendix (A.) to this Day's Evidence, page 314.)

Were the magistrates in Cambridgeshire well acquainted with the proceedings and success of the Reverend Mr. Becher, in the parish of Southwell, in Nottinghamshire?—Some of the magistrates were, though I do not think generally they were; but it was with a view to his plan that the circular was drawn up.

Have those regulations been acted upon generally?—Not so much as we could wish, but they have to a certain extent.

As far as they have been acted upon, do they appear to have produced good?—They have, to a certain extent. In order to facilitate the keeping regular accounts, we had some blank books printed, in conformity with those different heads for the overseers' accounts, which we had circulated throughout the county: last Easter was the first time we had an opportunity of seeing the effect. Having the accounts classed under different heads, the magistrates were enabled to refer to every thing immediately; when they saw an item that struck them as incorrect, they could immediately inquire into it; and that certainly

certainly was a greater check upon the overseers, and their accounts were more satisfactory upon the whole.

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Do you not find great difficulty from the frequent change of overseers?—That is one great difficulty; their object generally is to get through their time of service with as little trouble and as little expense to the parish as possible.

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Have those overseers in general availed themselves of the Act by which they may hire land and allot it to the Poor in small portions?—No; but a good deal has been done in the county in that way by individuals.

Is that found very productive of good where it has been done?—Where it has been only recently adopted there has hardly been sufficient time to judge fairly of the effects; but as far as my own experience goes, in the parish in which I reside, it has been attended with very good effects.

Have you any remedies to suggest for the evils you have stated to exist in the Poor Laws?—The first suggestion I would offer is with reference to letting land to the Poor. As far as my own experience goes, both in Bedfordshire and in Cambridgeshire, it has generally been attended with beneficial effects. At the same time I would observe, that I have seen many printed and other statements which appear to me too sanguine. In order to give due effect to letting land to the Poor, it would be very desirable, if possible, at the same time to do away with the system of giving any relief from the parish, in the shape of labour or otherwise, to able-bodied Labourers or their families; that where you let them land it should be on the condition of their consenting to give up any claim upon the parish. This plan has been tried in some places with success. In the Fourth Volume of Communications to the Board of Agriculture* there is a paper by Mr. Estcourt, stating the result of an experiment in a parish of his in Wiltshire, where the people themselves, upon having land let to them, agreed to give up their claim upon the parish, and the Rates were reduced from 21*l.* 16*s.*, the amount of Poor Rates for the half year ending April 5, 1801, to 12*l.* 6*s.* for the half year ending April 5, 1804, of which only 4*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.* was applied to the relief of the Poor; but I do not know whether the plan has been carried on to the present time. There is one parish in Cambridgeshire, where land has been let to the Poor for a great many years, where it has not been found to answer; but I think I can offer some reasons why it has not. A field is appropriated to the Poor, for which they pay only half the rent that the farmers do; they pay 12*s.* an acre for it, and any farmer would gladly give 25*s.*, and the farmers plough it for them, so that it is rather a matter of favour on the part of the Poor taking the land. It appears to me that the great secret is to put the Poor in a way of improving their condition by their own exertions.

Is that the only reason for which you think that plan did not answer?—That the farmers do too much for them.

Then, that is not an objection to the system, in your opinion, but to the mode in which it is adopted in a particular place?—Exactly so.

Have you formed any opinion as to the extent to which they ought to be allowed to cultivate land?—I think no general rule can be laid down upon the subject; my own opinion is, that if a man cultivated his half acre or rood of land well, if he wished for more, he should have the opportunity of hiring it.

How much land is allotted to each man in the parish of Coton?—Most of the Labourers have land from half an acre to an acre and a half.

Do they keep a cow?—No; it is an inclosed parish, and they do not keep cows upon it.

Are the rents high in that parish, as compared with neighbouring parishes?—About the average. I think the population of the parish is 254; there are 930 acres of land. The amount of the Rates last year was 110*l.*, rather less than the three preceding.

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* Communications to the Board of Agriculture, Vol. IV. page 347. No. 18.; by T. Estcourt, Esq., M. P.

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Do you take in that calculation the loss which is sustained by the parish or the landlord in letting the land at less money?—No; nor the ploughing. In alluding to remedies, there is one point of which I have heard a good deal, though I have not much practical knowledge upon the subject; that is, emigration; it has been practised upon two estates on the borders of Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire, that I am acquainted with; and at present I think it has been an advantage, and has afforded immediate relief.

Can you state to what extent the emigration was carried on?—No; I cannot state the particulars.

Previous to the emigration taking place, had the parishes suffered much from population beyond the demand?—They thought so; and in those parishes there were a great many Labourers out of employment.

How was the emigration carried on?—The means were found out of the estates. With respect to emigration, I would add, that I think, where the numbers are really too great for employment, it may be beneficial, if connected with the plan which I have before alluded to, namely, the getting rid of any claim on the Poor Rate on the part of the able-bodied Labourers who remain. There is another mode of relief, the full effect of which is very much impeded by dependence on the Poor Rates, which is the Savings Banks. The Poor are unwilling to take advantage of them where they can, because they feel that if they put any money into the Savings Bank, it would be, in fact, giving up their claims upon the overseer. Benefit Societies are also an assistance where well conducted, but in general they are founded upon defective principles.

Do you consider the present system of administering the Poor Laws as discouraging both Benefit Societies and Savings Banks?—I think the principle of the Poor Laws is a discouragement to them; it is a bounty on improvidence.

What is your opinion as to the population of Cambridgeshire, in regard to the proportion it bears to the demand for labour?—As far as we have been able to ascertain by inquiries made this winter, it does not appear that the number of Labourers in the county of Cambridge is more than sufficient to cultivate the land.

Have you any means of stating the proportion that the number of Labourers bears to the number of acres?—Yes; some questions were sent round the county last winter, which I have here, and the answers to them.

[*The Witness delivers in the same.*]

" CAMBRIDGESHIRE, to Wit.

" WHEREAS at a Meeting of the Lord Lieutenant and magistrates of the county (convened by the former), held at the Red Lion Inn in Cambridge, on Friday the 3d day of December instant, it was unanimously resolved, with a view to allaying the irritation which appears to exist in the minds of many of the Labouring Class, and which has been increased by the misrepresentations of evil-disposed persons, that a particular inquiry should be made into the actual state and condition of the Poor in every parish in this county;—It is therefore by this Court ordered, That the magistrates be requested to institute immediately, in each parish in their respective divisions of the county, a full and particular inquiry into the present state of the Poor; and that, in making this investigation, they be also requested to obtain Answers to the subjoined Questions, and to return the same to the Clerk of the Peace on or before the 6th day of January next.

" Pemberton, Clerk of the Peace.

" *The Questions which are referred to above.*

" 1.—The name of the parish, and the population?

" 2.—The total quantity of land in the parish? If any part of it is a common, state what quantity.

" 3.—The number of Labourers above 20 years of age; and the number of young men and boys above 10 and not exceeding 20 years of age?

" 4.—The number of Labourers generally out of regular employment? how such Labourers are maintained?

" 5.—The

- " 5.—The rate of daily wages, without small beer; and the rate when small beer is found by the master?
- " 6.—Whether the Labourers are apportioned amongst the occupiers according to the extent of each occupation?
- " 7.—Whether any distinction is made in wages paid to married and single men; and whether any allowance is made from the Poor's Rate on account of a large family?
- " 8.—Whether the system of roundmen, and the practice of paying any part of the wages out of the Poor's Rates, exists in the parish?
- " 9.—What is the rent of cottages let to Labourers, and whether they have gardens to their cottages? also, whether any other land is let to the Labourers, and if so, what quantity to each?
- " 10.—Whether any charity estate, and if so, how the profits are applied?
- " 11.—Whether any assistance is given in the winter by fuel or clothing? the price of fuel, whether wood, coal, or turf?
- " 12.—The amount of the Poor's Rates from Easter 1809 to Easter 1830? whether the same exceeds the amount of the average Rates during the three preceding years?
- " N.B.—Magistrates are requested to add any further information they may deem useful."

F. Pym, Jun.

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Have you a General Abstract of those Returns?—I have.

[*The Witness is requested to send to the Committee an Abstract of those Returns.*]

(See Appendix (B.) to this Day's Evidence, page 316.)

Mr. Pym.]—The Returns to the Questions are not quite correct, as eight parishes have made no Returns; but this will not affect the general results. The number of acres returned appear to be about 280,000, the number of labouring men 8,900, and the number of boys and lads from 10 to 20 years of age, 4,400; of those nearly 1,000 are at times dependent upon their parishes for support in the shape of work. There are nearly 7,000 acres of common out of those 280,000 acres.

Will you explain what you mean by common?—Uncultivated land in the open field. It is in some instances heath; but in some of the fen parishes it is of a more valuable description; the grass commons are as valuable as any part of the parish; but in the high lands they are not so; they are merely used as sheep walks, and cattle are turned on them in summer; but some are entirely unoccupied in any way except to dig fuel from. Wages appear to vary, according to the Returns, from 9s. to 14s. per week; the common average in most of the parishes was 9s. or 10s.; if the Labourers work by the grate, they get more. A distinction is made in about half the parishes between the wages of married and single men. At parish work there is always a distinction, single men receiving less than married. Assistance is given where there are large families in about half the parishes. It does not appear from these Returns, though there is a little incorrectness in the Abstract, that any part of the wages of labour, as such, is paid out of the Rates, except in the case of the parish Labourers; and we found the cottage rents not so high as we supposed; the average is about 3*l.* a year.

With or without gardens?—There is about an equal proportion.

Do you include in that average the rent of those cottages that have been built by bricklayers and carpenters upon speculation, and let at higher rents?—Near towns the rents are higher, and also where they can take in lodgers. One cottage in my parish is let for 7*l.* a year, and the man takes in four lodgers at 1*s.* a week each, so that in fact he gets his cottage for nothing; but the average of rents is about 3*l.*, and there are as many that have gardens (except in the neighbourhood of towns) as there are without them. Cottage rents are hardly at all paid out of the Rates, as is the practice in some parts of the country.

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You stated that you thought the present Law of Settlement very inconvenient; what law should you propose for settlements? should you propose a birth settlement or a residence?—There is great difficulty in the proof of a birth settlement, perhaps as much as in any, because it is often necessary to go so far back.

Would you abolish all settlements by hiring?—As a step to abolish others, I would.

Does not the settlement by hire lead to very great inconvenience and very great expense?—It certainly does.

Do you see any inconvenience in having a settlement by residence?—I think that is the fairest way upon the whole.

Would you recommend settlement being confined to residence?—Renting a tenement is one ground of settlement now, which perhaps is not an unfair one, connected with residence; but I think a settlement by residence alone would be the best way of simplifying it: this, however, has always been objected to in large manufacturing places. In some towns there is a large population and very little land; for example, the town of Royston has a considerable population, and I think they have not above 100 acres of land belonging to the parish. Baldock in Hertfordshire is another place similarly situated. They have very little land, and they say that in those places settlements by residence would be considered a burden.

Do not you think that the settlement by hiring and service checks the freedom of the Labourers very much?—Very much.

Do not you think it tends more to increase litigation than any other description of settlement?—Yes; the distinctions that arise upon the cases with respect to it are very numerous and very fine.

What length of residence should you think it desirable to adopt?—Not less than three years' uninterrupted residence.

With respect to bastardy, do you not think that the present law, which makes it imperative upon the magistrate to commit a man to gaol before the birth of the child which has been sworn against him, leads to some inconvenience?—It is a hardship to the individuals who are so committed.

In point of fact, do they not come out of gaol usually worse than they are when they go in?—Yes; because you cannot put them to labour.

Would you see any objection to altering the whole of the law respecting bastardy?—Not the least. I think if it was done away with altogether there would be no children destroyed, but that women would have a greater regard to their character.

Are not the mothers of bastard children very seldom sent to gaol, though there is a power in the magistrate to do so?—They are occasionally, when they have had more than one child, but very seldom in the first instance.

What is the practice of the magistrates in Cambridgeshire with respect to requiring security of the fathers of bastard children?—The practice that I adopt is to advise the overseers not to press the charge against the man, unless they have reason to suppose that he will run away, till after the birth, and if they can find any thing like security for ten or twenty pounds, to be satisfied with that till after birth.

Do you conceive that the law justifies a magistrate in taking a security for the appearance of the father, or that the law does not make it imperative that the security shall be bound to obey any order that may be made?—The form of it runs in that way; they are committed in default of sureties to the quarter sessions, and then, if the woman is not brought to bed, they are remanded under the original commitment, unless they can find securities, to the next quarter sessions, or till an order is made.

Do you not think it would be desirable to enact that the magistrate should only require securities for the man's appearance?—I think it would.

Do

Do you think it would be desirable to allow the fathers of bastard children to compromise with the parish, by paying a sum of money?—I think if the parish had nothing to do with it, it would be a greater check to that description of crime than any thing else.

How would you have bastard children provided for?—That the mother should take care of them, and her friends.

Without any reference to the father?—Without any reference to any body.

Are you of opinion that the treating it in the same manner as you would a misdemeanor would check the offence more than treating it as a matter of debt?—I think if all the difficulty and disgrace which follows even now were thrown upon the parties, without reference to the parish, there would be much fewer cases of the sort. I think women would have a greater regard to their character, and be more careful in their conduct.

Would you impose any penalty upon the father?—No, I would not interfere with it at all.

Do you think there would be fewer solicitations to unchastity if the father was not burdened with the maintenance of the child?—I cannot say whether there would be fewer solicitations or not, but I think there would be more regard to their character on the part of the women.

Then, in fact, you would repeal the Bastardy Laws?—Yes.

Would not the bastards then become objects of relief, as occasional Poor?—Perhaps they might, as they do now.

Would not the difference be, that now it is with indemnity to the parish, but then they would have none?—It is called indemnity to the parish, but it is only indemnity to the mothers, for the men are constantly unable to pay, and occasionally they are sent to gaol, but the burden mainly falls upon the parishes. In confirmation of this opinion, I would add, that in one parish in this neighbourhood the expenses under the head of bastardy for the last year were above 48*l.*, whilst all that was recovered from the fathers was rather more than 3*l.*

Do you see any danger of the increase of infanticide if it were thrown upon the mothers?—I do not see the least. As far as I can judge, I think that is not the case with reference to Scotland, with which I have some acquaintance.

Have you sufficient acquaintance with the state of the law upon that subject in Scotland to inform the Committee whether the women are better conducted there than they are in England?—As far as my acquaintance with Scotland goes, I should say that, though there are instances of bastard children, they are very rare as compared with England, and I have scarcely ever heard of an instance of infanticide in Scotland.

You have stated that you conceive, that, with reference to the proper cultivation of land in the county of Cambridge, there is not a redundancy of population. Do you think that, at the prices which agricultural produce has borne for the last three years, additional capital, of course putting in motion additional labour, could be profitably employed upon the heavy land in the county?—Upon some, but not upon all. A great deal of the land might be very much improved by drainage, and the produce would be increased by at least five bushels of wheat an acre.

Therefore, to a certain amount, capital might be beneficially expended still upon those parts?—I think upon some parts, but not upon the whole.

Do you think the cultivation of heavy soils generally, in the county of Cambridge, has deteriorated within the last few years?—It has in particular parishes. We have heavy lands that are tolerably good, and there it has not deteriorated; but in others, it certainly has deteriorated.

Where deterioration has taken place, to what do you ascribe it?—People take farms in those parishes without capital. Those who have capital are very unwilling to hire them.

*F. Pym, Jun.
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Do you not conceive that many of the farmers who had capital have been gradually losing it upon the heavy lands within the last few years?—A great many have.

Have the rents been much reduced in that part of the country?—In some parishes very much, and generally within the last fifteen years they have been reduced one third.

If it be true that the capital originally employed upon the heavy lands has been gradually diminishing, would it not be likely that additional capital laid out would share the same fate?—With all the present burdens upon land, I should think it would, upon cold clay land.

What is the average produce of wheat per acre of Cambridgeshire land?—It varies so much. There are some lands upon a chalky sub-soil, rather of a strong description, which will produce nearly forty bushels of wheat per acre; and there are some poor lands that will not produce more than ten or twelve bushels.

What proportion may it be upon each description of soil?—I am hardly able to say; but I should think that in the county of Cambridge, apart from the Isle of Ely, there may be one-fifth part of poor clay land, but not more.

And the remaining part likely to produce upon the average, how much?—Varying from twenty to thirty bushels an acre. There is a great deal of thin light land, that produces very little without the assistance of repeated dressings of light compost, as rape dust, malt dust, feathers, soot, &c., which is thus made more productive, and bears good barley.

Is it then your opinion, that under the present circumstances there is any chance of the population of the county of Cambridge being fully employed?—The great hindrance to it appears to me to be, the operation of the Poor Laws; they confine persons to particular parishes; they act as a clog upon labour; and the Labourers have acquired such habits of indifference about looking after work, that they will hardly go into the adjoining parishes to ask for a job.

Do you think that the county can generally be said to be suffering from a surplus population?—Not in the least. According to the Answers to the Questions, there are about three men and a half and one boy to 100 acres.

Do not you know that in that part of Cambridgeshire to which you have been alluding, namely, in the neighbourhood of Royston, the cultivation is in some measure checked, and the population put out of employment, is consequence of the general disinclination to the mode in which tithes are charged and collected?—In the parishes which I am most acquainted with, I only know one where tithe has been at all a matter of complaint, or that any difficulty has arisen.

Are you acquainted with the fact, that in the parish of Duxford some of the land is now out of cultivation in consequence of the demand of tithe, which is considered excessive?—No, I was not aware of that fact.

Do you know any instances of the sort?—Not of land being out of cultivation, but very much deteriorated.

Are you of opinion that giving small plots of land will tend to ameliorate the condition of the Labourers, by making them feel independent; but that it ought to be accompanied, or rather preceded, by reducing the number of men out of employment?—I think it would have a very beneficial effect, if attended with getting rid of parish assistance to able-bodied Labourers at the same time, otherwise I am afraid the relief would only be temporary.

Could you contemplate such an effect to be produced by an allotment of half an acre of land?—It would fill up a great deal of spare time; but I would not limit it to any particular quantity; I would give a man a little at first, and if he cultivated it well, give him more.

Do not you think if every Labourer had such a portion of land as he could cultivate by his own daily labour at extra hours, besides working for his employers.

employers, it would by degrees become a succedaneum for the Poor Rate?—I think if they engaged in it upon those conditions, it would, to a great extent.

Would there not be some danger, if you insisted upon such a condition, that the Labourers would refuse to take the allotments of land?—There might, and it would require management.

Would it not be better to induce them first to take the allotments, and then by degrees bring them to that condition of independence upon the parish?—Yes; that might be the right way to begin, but always keeping that object in view.

Have the overseers of the Poor found any great difficulty in procuring small allotments of land for the Poor, where they have been desirous of doing it?—They have not tried it as overseers. In many parishes individuals have done it.

Do not you think it would be beneficial if, in every instance where they could, they should attempt to obtain a small allotment for the Poor?—If individuals will not do it; but I think it is better done by individuals.

Do you know any instances where proprietors have found difficulty in inducing the farmers to give up any part of their land for allotments to the Poor?—Yes, I have known instances of that.

Upon the whole, from your experience, would you recommend to let every poor man have that quantity of land which he can cultivate after his daily labour?—Yes.

In expressing your opinion that those allotments of land might supersede the necessity of Poor's Rates, you assume that there should not be a superabundance of population?—Yes; but I mentioned that I thought the allotments of land would be one means of arriving at that desirable conclusion; and if the clog were taken off, which I consider the parish relief and the Rates to be upon the free interchange of labour, the Labourers would not have the same difficulty in getting employment; and then if they had land, they would have no occasion when they were out of work for a few days to apply to the overseer; in fact they would then be obliged to take care of themselves, and they would be able to do so.

Are you aware that this plan was adopted at Willingham, in your county, where the Labourers soon afterwards got off the Poor's Rates?—I am; and I am sorry it has been discontinued.

Have there been any disturbances in those parishes where they gave the Labourers land?—I think not in any parish where the Labourers had land. There was a fire in the parish of Coton, but that is the instance I referred to, where it was not considered as a boon by the Labourers; they had it upon too cheap terms.

Would giving land to a Labourer who was out of employment be of effectual service to him?—It would not occupy him constantly. I can state one way in which it gives assistance to Labourers out of employment. In the parish in which I reside, all the Labourers who wished it had an offer last year of from a rood to half an acre of land; all the men with families accepted it, except two; and now, when a man or a lad is out of work for a few days, instead of going to the overseer, he either works upon his own allotment, or he works for some of his neighbours, whose other employment is so good that they are unwilling to leave it.

You do not conceive that you have an over population in the county of Cambridge?—I think not, generally. In the parish to which I am referring, we have not enough men to cultivate the land properly.

Then, in point of fact, all your observations respecting giving land are to be considered as applying to a county where there is not a superabundant population?—Yes; my experience goes only to that.

In your opinion, is there a good deal of additional employment for labour created by the cultivation of small allotments?—Yes; and a great deal of additional comfort to the Labourer, by furnishing vegetables for his family, and the means of keeping a pig.

F. Pym, Jan.
Esq.

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F. Fox, Jun.
Esq.

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1831.

You mentioned that two of the Labourers in your parish declined having allotments of lands; what was the reason they assigned?—One is a very improvident man, though a very good workman, and always in distress; and the other is a man who has two sons grown up, who are constantly employed at full wages, and his wife takes in washing; and he said he was content with what he had, as he had a good garden before.

Have any portion of those Labourers who had allotments given to them been found by the farmers less amenable or less industrious than they were before?—Quite the contrary.

Do the farmers generally like the plan?—They made objections and difficulties at first; but since it has been put in operation I have heard no objection; they have seen the good effects of it.

You stated that emigration afforded immediate relief to the places where it was adopted; did you mean to say that you had no proof that it was permanently beneficial?—Yes; the expense was borne by the proprietors, and the relief was felt by the occupiers.

Are not the best Labourers in general sent away by emigration?—They are the most likely to adventure upon it.

If the Poor could be employed beneficially in cultivating and improving tracts of waste land at home, would not that be a more eligible plan than sending them abroad?—If they could be, I should think so certainly.

Do you know whether or not there are a great many thousand acres of uncultivated land in the kingdom of England?—Yes, I know there are.

Do you believe that a great portion of that land is capable of profitable cultivation?—Yes.

Is it then advisable that we should afford encouragement to our own people to go abroad, when, by staying at home, that land might be cultivated more beneficially than it is at present?—I think that both plans might be tried; but I would certainly give the preference to cultivating all the land at home, in the first place. There are difficulties in the way of cultivating waste lands at home, which possibly might be removed; I allude to the expense of Inclosure Acts. There is one parish in my neighbourhood where, at this moment, there are 800 acres of uncultivated land; and a great deal of cultivated land in that parish might be very much improved by an inclosure. It is one where the Rates are very high, where there are more persons out of employment than in any parish in that part of the country.

Should you think it desirable to tempt those Labourers to go abroad?—There are seasons of the year when those Labourers can get work in the neighbourhood; but the operation of the Poor Laws renders them unwilling to go to a distance to look for it. At this moment there are a great number of men, fifty or more, at parish work, whilst in an adjoining parish, in Bedfordshire, the farmers cannot get Labourers.

Do you suppose that relief from superabundant population, afforded either by the cultivation of waste lands or by emigration, would be permanent, unless attended with a different administration of the Poor Laws?—If you got rid of granting relief to able-bodied Labourers, I think that both would be beneficial, but not permanently, without.

Do you believe that there is a superabundant population in any county in England?—I have heard so, certainly; and I have reason to believe that is the case.

Supposing there are one hundred Labourers in a parish, and only sixty of them are in constant employment, do you not think that it would not only be very politic, but very humane, to enable those men to earn a livelihood in our colonies, if they are desirous of doing so?—I stated before, that I thought the plan of emigration would be a desirable one, as well as the other.

Do you not think it would be better to employ those persons, if they could be profitably employed, in a neighbouring parish, rather than sending them abroad?—If they could be profitably employed I would give the preference to employing them at home.

Do

Do you see any objection to facilitate the emigration of any man who wishes to go?—I think not.

Assuming as a fact, that there is a superabundant population, does it not appear to you desirable to give that population every possible means of finding employment for themselves, whether at home or abroad?—Yes.

Would you endeavour to tempt those men to go to a country where they do not know how they may fare, and of which they have very little knowledge?—Not by any false information.

Have you ever calculated what the expense would be of removing 100 Paupers in a parish where there is a superabundant population, and settling them upon waste land?—No, I have not. My answers do not refer to removing them to distant parishes; I have not viewed it in that light. But in the parish to which I alluded, where there are 800 acres of waste, there are 150 Labourers, and I consider that, if facilities were afforded for cultivating that land, all those Labourers would find employment.

In point of fact, would you recommend that the waste lands in the parish should be given to Labourers for their cultivation?—No; but that they should be brought into cultivation; and as one means of improving the condition of the Poor, I would afford facilities for letting them have small portions of land; but with respect to the waste lands, I think they should be cultivated generally; and if enclosed and well cultivated, I consider that the parish would produce double what it does at present.

If a labouring man lives by the produce of his labour, will not his condition depend upon the fertility of the land he cultivates?—Certainly, if he cultivates the land for himself.

Will not his condition be much better off by cultivating good land in a colony than by cultivating bad land at home?—If he was there, perhaps it might.

Do you think that the offer is made to an English Labourer in the manner in which it ought to be, whether he will go abroad or not, if he is found in this country in a state nearly approaching to actual starvation?—He is not then in a fair condition to form a correct estimate.

Does he not, in fact, know that he is at present secure from that evil by the Poor Laws?—The Poor Laws hold out to him an idea of being secure from that evil, which I consider they cannot realize.

Are you aware that a great number of people do emigrate from this country to the United States every year?—Yes; I am aware that they do from parts of the country.

Are you aware that a great many go to the town of New York in the United States?—I have read accounts of it.

Have you not heard that when those men find their way to that country, many of them perish from disease soon after they get there?—I have not seen any statement of that.

Have you not heard that large numbers of His Majesty's subjects have gone to the United States, and, from no arrangements having been previously made, have been put to very severe distress?—I have heard of great distress existing, but not the extremity of distress referred to.

Is it the result of your opinion, upon the whole, that, though you would not prevent them from going, yet at the same time you would hold out facilities and inducements as long as there is a quantity of land here which might be beneficially cultivated by them?—I would rather that they were maintained at home; but I am not sufficiently informed upon the subject of emigration to give an opinion which is of much value.

[*The Witness is directed to withdraw.*]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, at Twelve o'Clock.

F. Pym, Jan.
Esq.

25 March,
1831.

APPENDIX (A.) TO THE EVIDENCE OF FRANCIS PYM, Jun., Esquire.

(Circular.)

To the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of the Parish of _____
in the County of Cambridge.

GENTLEMEN,

BY an Order of the Court of Quarter Sessions holden for the County of Cambridge on the 16th day of January 1829, I am directed to transmit to you the following Circular and Abstract of your Duties, concerning the relief and employment of the Paupers of your parish.

The severe and increasing burthen of the Poor's Rate, and the progressive demoralization in the general habits of the Poor in this county, have induced the magistrates to investigate the subject, with a view to ascertain the leading causes of these lamentable effects, and the proper remedies which should be adopted for their removal. Upon a full examination of the subject, the magistrates are convinced that a very considerable portion of the evils to which they have alluded is attributable to the want of a due administration of the existing Poor Laws—to a departure from the injunctions of the early Statutes, which require the Churchwardens as well as the Overseers to take an active part in the management of the Poor—to the neglect of some of the latest enactments for the employment of able-bodied Paupers—to the giving relief (except by loan) to the extravagant and profligate, and to the impolitic and pernicious system of making up wages from the Poor's Rate.

In many parishes in the kingdom, where the letter and spirit of the Poor Laws have been strictly adhered to, and duly enforced by the parochial authorities, a large reduction has been effected in the amount of the Rates, and a considerable improvement has taken place in the condition and moral habits of the Poor. The magistrates can perceive no reason why equal advantage should not arise from the adoption of similar measures in this county; and they feel confident, therefore, that the Churchwardens and Overseers will readily unite with them in endeavouring to abolish a system of administering the Poor Laws, under which the Poor's Rate has enormously increased, and the character and habits of the Poor have become generally demoralized. They are convinced, however, that the present system of leaving the whole management of the Poor of a parish to one Overseer—of making up any deficiency of wages from the Poor's Rate—of having the same scale of relief for the idle and dissolute as for the industrious and deserving—of employing Labourers in the gravel-pits, without requiring any certain quantity of work to be performed—and of giving pecuniary relief to able-bodied Paupers, without requiring any work in return, must be discontinued, and a better mode of relieving and employing them adopted, before any permanent good can be produced.

The system which the laws sanction, and the magistrates earnestly recommend the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor in every parish in the county rigidly to pursue, is the following:

First.—That no parish should leave the management of the Poor to one Overseer; but that the Churchwardens and both the Overseers should meet frequently and consult together (as they are required to do by the 43 Elizabeth, under the penalty of 20s.) for supporting the sick and impotent, and for setting to work the able-bodied Poor who through necessity are out of employment, and the children of those parents who from their families being large are unable to maintain them.

Secondly.—That no person should be entered upon the parish books except at a parish meeting of the inhabitants, or by the majority of the Churchwardens and Overseers at such meeting, when the inhabitants do not attend, (unless in obedience to a legal order of magistrates,) in conformity with the 3d & 4th of William and Mary, cap. 21, and the 9th George I., cap. 7, which require every addition to the Poor's List to be made only in such manner, and impose a penalty of 5*l.* upon any person who shall make an entry in the parish books excepting at such meeting, and direct all monies paid under an illegal entry to be struck out of the accounts—and require, when any person is put upon the parish book, the reason of the entry to be stated.

Thirdly.—That no able-bodied Pauper should be relieved with money without being employed, and all the sums so paid will be struck out of the Overseers' accounts. That all work should be put out by the grate—digging gravel and breaking stones by the load—ditching, digging land, scraping and lining the roads, by the pole—and a price should be paid to the parish Paupers something below the general rate of labour, that they may be induced to seek work independent of the parish. With a view to supply employment to Paupers, the 59th Geo. III., cap. 19, empowers every parish to take, lease, or purchase a quantity of land (not exceeding twenty acres) to be vested in the Churchwardens and Overseers, for the benefit of the parish; and such land may be let out in small portions to the Poor, for the encouragement of industry.

Fourthly.—That where the applicants for relief are persons who but for their own extravagance or wilful misconduct might have supported themselves and their families, it should

should only be administered by loan under the 59th Geo. III., cap. 12, sec. 29. And such is the only legal mode of relieving persons who carry on a trade, as a bricklayer or Thatcher, out of work, &c.

Fifthly.—That in all cases where the parents or children of impotent persons claiming relief are of sufficient ability to support them, the 43d of Eliz., cap. 2, sec. 7, requiring them to do so, should be strictly enforced.

Sixthly.—That where a parent goes away and leaves his family to the charge of the parish, the Churchwardens should apply for a warrant to seize the goods and chattels, under the 5th Geo. I., cap. 8, as the best means of preventing similar desertion.

Seventhly.—That the payments of all sums of money under orders of filiation should be legally enforced whenever they become one month in arrear; and in default of payment, that the Overseers should not be deterred from imprisoning the party on account of the expense to which it might subject the parish.

Whenever the parish officers think it proper to refuse relief or employment, and they are consequently summoned before the magistrates, they are earnestly recommended to attend with the applicant, as otherwise relief or employment might be ordered, which the statement of the Overseers would render unnecessary.

EXPENDITURE.

As no pecuniary benefits can be expected without regularity and accuracy in keeping the parish accounts, the following arrangement is recommended in entering the items of Expenditure and of Receipts:—

1. Money paid to the aged—impotent—widows and children who are incapable of working, and are constantly supported out of the parish funds, distinguishing the resident from the non-resident.
2. Money paid to Paupers working for the parish.
3. Money paid for tools—materials to set the Poor to work—clothing—fuel—food—salaries of assistant Overseer, keeper of workhouse, and persons who are employed to instruct female children in work.
4. Money paid for lunatic—occasional—and casual Poor.
5. Money paid for medical attendance—funerals—repair of parish houses—rent of houses for impotent Poor—and rent of land for employment of the Poor.
6. Money paid for maintenance and care of bastard children—the apprehension of putative fathers—orders for filiation and loans.
7. Money paid for law expenses in removal of Paupers—attendance on Justices, &c.
8. Money paid for the County Rate—parish constables and militia.

RECEIPTS.

1. Money received as balance from the last Overseers.
2. Money received by Rates and other payments for the use of the Poor.
3. Money received from work, with the description and quantities of work specified.
4. Money received by the repayment of loans, for the maintenance of bastard children—and rent of land let out in small allotments to the Poor.

Upon passing the accounts, an abstract should be inserted at the end of them, showing the whole sum paid under each head of the above classification, and the parish books and orders of magistrates must be exhibited, to prove the legality of the entries, that the magistrates before whom the accounts are passed may strictly conform to the 50th Geo. III., cap. 49, sec. 1, which requires them to strike out all illegal and to reduce all excessive charges.

The magistrates are aware that the introduction of this system will for a time increase, not only their own labour, but likewise that of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor; they are, however, justified in asserting, from the good effects it has produced in many parishes, that the additional trouble will eventually be amply repaid.

As the present Overseers' year is drawing to a close, the magistrates, on passing their accounts will only require the amount of the different items of expenditure in each Parish to be distinctly stated at the end of them, and all books to be produced which contain the minutes of their vestry or parish meetings.

I am, GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

Clerk of the Peace.

P. S.—The Parish Officers are requested to affix this Circular to the Parish Book, in order that the same may be transmitted to their successors.

APPENDIX (B.) to the EVIDENCE of FRANCIS PYM, Junior, Esquire.

AN ABSTRACT of the ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS transmitted to each Parish in the County of Cambridgeshire, for the purpose of ascertaining the actual State and Condition

ROYSTON DIVISION.

HUNDREDS and PARISHES.	Population.	Number of Acres in each Parish.	How much Com- mon.	Number of La- bourn above 20 Years of Age.	Young Men and Boys above Ten, and not exceeding Twenty.	Number of Labourers generally out of Employment, and how maintained.	Weekly Wages without Beer.	Weekly Wages with Beer.	Whether Labourers are supported except (the Dependants according to the Extent of Occupation	Whether any Business is made in Wages paid to married single Men.
ARMINGFORD.										
Alington Pigotts -	550	1,260	-	Not an- swered.	Not answered.	- None -	- -	10 s. -	Yes	No; except less than 20 nearly about 7 s. 6 d. week.
Basingbourn -	1,089	3,475	-	167	77	Between 35 and 40; partly by casual work, and partly by Poor Rate.	- -	9 s. -	-	Yes
Croydon cum Chap- ton.	400	6,805 including public roads.	-	88	54	- - -	9 s. 1 about 10 s. by the grain.	- -	No	Yes; one-fifth less to single men.
East Hatley -	117	1,184	None	21	9	- None -	-	8 s. to 12 s.; 6 s. to 8 s. single men; 12 s. to 14 s. boys, with milk and small beer.	No	-
Kneassworth -	180	960	None	40	14	- None -	-	9 s. to 10 s. with small beer and milk.	No	- None -
Lidlington -	-	-	No Return from this Parish, which has lately been inclosed.							-
Gulden Morden	570	2,505	None	90	40	7 or 8, em- ployed on the roads.	- -	10 s. -	No	Yes; 10 s. married, 8 s. single.
Melbourn -	1,450	4,370	550	149	43	Forty men and boys employed in digging drains at half wages.	-	9 s. to 10 s. and some in- stances from 14 s. to 15 s. to mar- ried men.	No	Single, 6 s. to 10 s. 6 d., boys from 3 s. 6 d. to 5 s. 6 d. 6 s. 6 d.
Mildreth -	643	2,000	None	83	38	- None -	10 s. -	-	No	- No -
Registon -	Between 400 and 500.	None; ex- cept the site of house.	None	40	40	3, maintained out of Poor Rate.	11 s. -	-	-	No
Steeple Morden -	614	3,000	None	60	51	4 or 5, on the roads.	-	10 s. and small beer.	Yes	Married, 10 s.; single, 8 s.
Shingay -	105	754	None	18	15	1 boy on the road.	-	10 s. to mar- ried men, milk and small beer.	No	Yes
Tadlow -	147	1,836	None	40	16	- None -	-	6 s. to 10 s.	No	Yes
Wendy -	106	947	None	14	12	- None -	-	9 s. -	Yes	Yes
Whaddon -	350	1,344	None	53	44	- None -	-	9 s. married; 6 s. to 7 s. 6 d. single; 11 s. to 14 s. boys.	No	Yes

APPENDIX (B.) to the EVIDENCE of FRANCIS PYM, Junior, Esquire.

present to an Order made at the adjourned Quarter Sessions held on the 10th of December 1839; for the relief of the Poor in every Parish of the County.

ROYSTON DIVISION.

Whether any Allowance be made from the Poor's Rate on account of High Gardens.	Whether the System of Enclosures is practised.	Whether any Wages paid out of the Poor's Rate.	The Rent of Cottages.	Whether Gardens to the Cottages.	Whether any Land let to Labourers; if so, the Quantity.	What Class of Estates.	Whether any Fuel or Clothing given to the Poor.	The Price of Wood, Coal, or Turf.	Amount of Poor's Rate from Easter 1839 to Easter 1840.	Whether the Poor's Rate is the Same, or more or less than in 1839.
-	No	Yes	About 14. 15s. on the average.	No; some have orchards at higher rates.	-	None	Some of each is given.	-	£. s. d. 125 6 7½	More.
Generally.	No	No	3d. 10s. upon the average, without garden.	Yes; at higher rents.	Yes; 70 acres, in allotments from 1 road to 1 acre each.	4 or 50 p. of town-land, the profits of which go in aid of the Poor's Rate.	Yes; both to a considerable amount.	Coals, 15. 6d. per bushel; Turf, 1s. per hundred.	780 5 11½	More.
None	No	Yes	From 30s. to 50s.	No	Yes; from 1 road to 100 acres each to 35 Labourers.	None	Both sold at reduced prices.	-	456 4 -	More.
Yes	No	-	30s.	-	No	None	Coals sold at reduced prices, and some cloth given.	-	80 - -	About the same.
Same	No	No	2s. to 4s. with gardens.	Yes	No	None	None	-	138 - -	Rather less.
-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish, which has lately been inclosed.				-	-
-	No	-	30s. to 40s. with garden.	-	44 acres, at 20s. to 25s. per acre.	-	5 bushels of coals such to widows and widowers.	Biggleswade prices.	325 - -	More.
-	No	No	From 4s. to 5s. without garden or orchard.	None	No	-	Coals given to the widows, and are now selling to the Poor at 6d. per bushel.	Coals, 17 d.	620 - -	But little variation.
None	No	No	35s. to 50s.	-	1 road to each poor man.	Rent-charge of 1 l. 6 s.	40 l. clothing at half price, and 200 bushels sold weekly at 6d. per bushel.	Coals, 15. 6d.	281 1 5½	About the same.
-	No	-	2s. per week.	-	-	A small one applied to the Poor's Rate.	200 bushels of coals sold weekly at 1 s.	-	124 - -	Same.
-	No	-	With gardens from 30s. to 50s. a year.	Yes	It is proposed to let 1 road to each cottage.	9 acres of charity land let to the Poor.	Yes; coals.	-	482 - -	Less.
-	No	-	30s. to 3d.	In some cases.	Yes	None	Yes; clothing.	-	74 - -	Less.
11. for large families.	No	-	30s. to 40s.	-	Married men, half an acre; single, 1 road.	None	Yes; coals to widows.	-	139 - -	More.
No	No	-	10s. to 50s.	Some	Yes; rent-free to plant with potatoes.	None	Yes; fuel to the widows.	-	59 - -	Nearly same.
-	No	-	30s. to 50s.	Yes	Proposed to let 1 road to each Labourer.	None	Yes; coals.	Coals, 15. 1d. per bushel.	208 - -	More.

AN ABSTRACT of the ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS transmitted to each Parish in the County of CAMBRIDGE.

ROYSTON DIVISION—continued.

HUNDREDS and PARISHES.	Population.	Number of Acres in each Parish.	How much Com-m.	Number of Labou-ers above Ten Years of Age.	Young Men and Boys above Ten, and not exceeding Twenty.	Number of Labou-ers generally out of Employment, and how maintained.	Weekly Wages without Rent.	Weekly Wages with Rent.	Whether Labou-ers are apportioned amongst the Overseers according to the Extent of Occupation.	Whether any Distress is made in Wages paid to married and single Men.
WETHERLEV.										
Arrington -	200	1,368	None	43	16	- None -	10s.	- 9s. -	No	Yes; married, 10s. single, 8s.
Barrington -	491	2,129	23 acres.	109	47	- None -	-	- 9s. -	No	- No -
Barton -	180	1,500	200 acres	47	18	- None -	12s.	- 10s. -	Yes	Married, 12s. 6d. extra.
Colton -	-	-	-	No Return from the Parish.						
Comberton -	380	1,804	330 acres	45	16	6 or 7, parish work.	Married 8s. to 10s. single 6s. to 8s.	-	No	- Yes -
Gratchester -	418	1,591	None	55	37	6 to 8 at Surveyor's work.	-	- 10s. -	No	- No -
Hindlingfield -	600	2,439	None	89	89	16 on high-ways.	-	- 9s. -	No	- No -
Horton -	205	1,800	None	49	29	3, road work.	-	- 10s. -	No	Yes; as extra to married.
Orwell -	453	1,850	240 acres	70	34	4, road work, paid out of Surveyor's rate.	-	- 9s. -	No	- No -
Shepreth -	318	1,800	20	40	30	- None -	-	- 9s. -	Yes	Married, 9s.; single, 8s.
Wimpole -	550	2,468	None	86	81	- None -	10s.	- 9s. -	Yes	Married, 10s. single, 8s.

BOTTISHAM DIVISION.

FLENDISH.										
Cherry Hinton -	474	5,043	None	86	49	5 to 15 parish work; paid from Poor Rates.	-	- 9s. to 11s. -	No	- Yes -
Fen Ditton -	529	1,862	None	80	36	- None -	-	- 9s. to 10s. -	No	- - -
Fulbourn -	1,138	5,281	None	167	25	25; 5s of them on the roads, the remainder by Overseers; paid by Parish Rate.	-	- 10s. -	No	- - -
Horningsen -	300	1,520	None	46	9	- None -	-	- 10s. -	No	Yes; married 10s.; single 7s. to 9s.
Tevensham -	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.						

present to an Order made at the adjourned Quarter Sessions held on the 10th of December 1830, &c.—continued.

ROYSTON DIVISION—continued.

Whether any allowance is made from the Poor's Rate in payment of high tithes.	Whether the system of Boarding is practised.	Whether any wages paid out of the Poor's Rate.	The Rent of Cottages.	Whether Orders to the Cottages.	Whether any Land let to Labourers; if so, the Quantity.	What Charitable Societies.	Whether any Fuel or Clothing given to the Poor.	The Price of Wood, Coal, or Turf.	Amount of Poor's Rate from Easter 1829 to Easter 1830.	Whether the Poor's Rate in the three preceding Years was more or less than in 1830.
No	Yes	-	26 s. to 40 s.	Yes	Proposed to let a road to each.	- None -	- Both -	Coals, 12 s. 6d. per hundred.	151 l.	Less.
By a few cottagers.	No	-	40 s. to 5 l.	Yes	- No -	Yes, 21 acres; 3 acres for the repairs of the church; 18 acres to the Poor for fuel and clothing.	- Yes -	Cambridge prices.	310 l.	Less.
-	No	-	40 s. to 50 s.	Yes	- No -	Town-land, let for 4 l. 4 s.	Yes; coals, and 3 quarters of corn.	- ditto -	215 l.	Less.
-	-	-	-	-	No Return from the Parish.	-	-	-	-	-
Yes	Yes; 7 of 8.	No	40 s. to 60 s.	Yes	- No -	Yes; estate 19 l. a year for repairs of church; 10 l. given to the Poor.	- Yes -	-	425 l.	More.
No	No	-	50 s. to 5 l.	Yes	Yes; quantity not stated.	Yes; rent held out in coals.	Yes; coals.	-	307 l.	Less.
No	No	-	55 s.	Yes	18 a. 3 r.	An estate let; fuel supplied in gifts to the Poor; 10 l. to a school.	- No -	-	319 l.	More.
No	No	No	40 s. to 5 l.	Yes	- No -	An estate, part to support school, and part let to Poor.	- Yes -	1 s. 2 d.	104 l.	More.
No	No	No	40 s. to 3 l.	Yes	- No -	5 l. to 5 old widows, and 3 roads, and a small share-house.	Yes; coals.	- ditto -	341 l.	Less.
No	No	No	45 s.	Yes	Yes; for potatoes, rent-free.	Land and water-charges of a farm in Chobell, given in coals to the Poor.	Yes; coals.	Coals sold 6 s. per hundred to the Poor.	109 l.	More.
No	No	No	30 s. to 42 s.	Yes	1 road to every Labourer.	An estate; proceeds to the Poor.	Yes; both.	Coals sold at 1 s. 2 d. per hundred to the Poor.	347 l.	Less.

BOTTISHAM DIVISION.

No	No	No	50 s. to 6 l.	Yes	- No -	Estate, worth 14 l. per annum.	Yes; fuel to widows.	Coals, 12 s. 6d. per hundred.	455 l.	More.
By a few cottagers.	No	No	40 s. to 6 l.	Yes	- - -	12 acres let; produce sold out as turf for Poor.	Turf occasionally.	Turf, about 6 s. 7 d. per thousand.	341 l.	Less.
Yes	No	Yes	40 s. to 50 s. without garden; 3 l. to 5 l. with garden.	Yes	Yes, 40 acres from 2 roads to 1 acre each.	Careway Chantry land. Bishop's Chantry.	66 poor turf, two chertone coals. Poor flints and sandstone coals.	Coals, 22 s. per chertone. Turf, 10 s. per thousand.	1,097 l.	Less.
No	No	No	3 l.	Yes	8 Labourers, 4 s. 6 d. each.	One of 100 l. per annum to the Poor.	Poor allowed to cut turf.	-	-	Equal.
-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.	-	-	-	-	-

AN ABSTRACT of the ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS transmitted to each Parish in the County of CAMBRIDGE.

BOTTSHAM DIVISION.—continued.

HUNDREDS and PARISHES.	Population.	Number of Acres in each Parish.	How much Com- mon.	Number of La- bours above 20 Years of Age.	Young Men and Boys above Ten, and not exceeding Twenty.	Number of Labourers generally out of Employment, and how maintained.	Weekly Wages without Beer.	Weekly Wages with Beer.	Whether Labourers are appropriately managed by the Overseers according to the Statute of Occupation.	Whether any Disputes as to Wages paid to married and single Men.
STAIRS.										
Bottsbam - - -	-	4,700	None	120	50	- None -	11s.	- 10s.	- Yes	- Yes -
Stow cum Qy - - -	-	1,300	A small right of common.	50	60	- None -	11s.	- 10s.	- Not all; nearly so.	- Yes; single men have it.
Swaffham Balbeck - - -	-	3,000	100	80	50	- None -	11s.	- 10s.	- No	- No -
Swaffham Prior - - -	-	5,597	None	122	59	Several during the winter se- ason employed on the roads, &c.	11s.	- 10s.	- No	- No -
Wilkesham, Little - - -	300	1,300	None	42	30	- None -	-	- 10s. to 12s.	- No	- Yes -
Wilkesham, Great - - -	550	2,800	both parts thereof.	75	55	- None -	-	- 8s. to 12s.	- Yes	- Yes -

HOWES DIVISION.

CHESTERTON.										
Chesterton - - -	-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.	-	-	-	-
Conesham - - -	-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.	-	-	-	-
Childerley - - -	89	1,050	-	21	17	- None -	-	- 10s. to 11s.	- No; con- sist only of one farm.	- No -
Dry Drayton - - -	449	2,289	None	89	21	4 or 5, out of Parish Rate.	10s. to 10s. with allowd.	-	- Yes	- Yes; mar- ried 10s. to 10s. 6d. or 7s.
Histon - - -	775	2,300	None	80 to 90	50 to 60	40 to 50 at this season.	-	- 10s.	- Yes	- Very small.
West Wickham - - -	-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.	-	-	-	-
Northnew.										
Giron - - -	380	1,700	None	65	40	1	10s. and milk.	- Yes	- Yes; mar- ried 10s. boys and single men from 3s. to 6s.	- No -
Implington - - -	190	1,300	None	29	15	Four work on roads.	-	- 10s.	- No	- Yes; 10s. to 10s. 6d.
Lobworth - - -	115	800	Large portion	20	10	- None -	10s. to 12s.	-	- No	- Yes -
Landbeach - - -	-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.	-	-	-	-
Longstanton All Saints.	422	1,900	None	57	40	- None -	-	- 10s.	- Yes	- Yes -
Longstanton St. Michael.	130	850	None	22	10	- No -	-	- 10s.	- Yes	- Yes; 10s. 3d. or 6d.

pursuant to an Order made at the adjourned Quarter Sessions held on the 16th of December 1830, &c.—continued.

BOTTISHAM DIVISION—continued.

Whether any allowance is made from the Poor's Rate as a reward for good conduct.	Whether the System of Enclosures is practised.	Whether any Wages paid out of the Poor's Rate.	The Rent of Cottages.	Whether Gardens to the Cottages.	Whether any Land let to Labourers; if so, the Quantity.	What Charity Estates.	Whether any Fuel or Clothing given to the Poor.	The Price of Wood, Coals, or Turf.	Amount of Poor's Rate from Easter 1819 to Easter 1830.	Whether the Poor's Rate is the same as in the preceding Years or less than in 1819.
Yes	No	- -	40s. to 4l.	Yes, some of them.	Yes, to grow potatoes.	One of about good per acre; the produce of which is divided amongst the Poor.	Yes; fuel and clothing.	Turf, 6s. 7 ^d thousand.	8s. 9d. in the pound.	Less.
-	No	No	40s. to 4l.	Yes, some of them.	About 14 acres, two-had, at 2s. per acre.	- None -	Yes; turf to widows.	Turf, 9s. 7 ^d thousand.	5s. in the pound.	But little variation.
No	No	No	3l. to 3l. 10s.	Yes, most of them.	- - -	One, the produce applied at the discretion of trustees.	Yes, fuel and clothing to widows and old men.	Turf, 7s. 7 ^d thousand.	6s. 6d. in the pound.	More.
No	No	No	40s. to 4l.	Yes, some of them.	- No -	One, for support of a school, and fuel to the Poor.	Yes; fuel and clothing.	Turf, 8s. per thousand; Coals, 1s. 9d. per basket.	5s. 6d.	Less.
No	No	- -	3l. to 4l.	Yes, most of them.	- No -	One; under the management of trustees.	Yes; both from charity estate.	Turf, 9s. 7 ^d thousand.	244l.	Less.
No	No	- -	4l. to 4l.	Yes, all.	- No -	- None -	Yes; fuel.	Turf, 9s. 7 ^d thousand.	267l.	Less.

BOWES DIVISION.										
-	-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.	-	-	-	-
No	No	No	30s. to 40s.	-	-	As much as they choose to cultivate.	- None -	Blankets given some years ago.	- - -	Note made, because the whole parish belongs to an individual.
Yes	No	No	30s. to 4l.	Yes; in most cases.	It is intended to let the Poor have fuel.	4l. acres, some of which land not in coal for the Poor.	Yes; fuel.	9d. more than Cambridge price.	454 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	50s. to 60s.	Yes; about half.	Yes; 4 acres, in half-acre lots.	6l. or 7l. for fuel.	- Yes -	Coals, 13d. sold to Poor at 10d.	509 l.	Less.
-	-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.	-	-	-	-
No	-	40s.	Yes	-	-	Yes; intended to be expended in coals.	Yes; coals.	- - -	254 l.	About the same.
Yes	No	No	42s.	Yes	Some Labour on 1 road each.	Small fund, expended in coals.	- Yes -	- - -	14s.	More.
Yes	No	No	-	-	-	- None -	Yes; wood.	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	No Return from this Parish.	-	-	-	-
Yes	No	-	30s. to 40s.	Yes	Yes; six have about 3 acres each.	Yes; given to the Poor in coals.	Yes; coals.	- - -	419 l.	Less.
No	No	-	4l. to 4l.	Yes	- - -	Small charity estate; produce given to Poor in coals.	Yes; coals.	- - -	108 l.	Less.

AN ABSTRACT of the ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS transmitted to each Parish in the County of CAMBRIDGE.

HOWES DIVISION—continued.

HUNDREDS and PARISHES.	Population.	Number of Acres in each Parish.	How much Coun- men.	Number of La- bours above the Years of Age.	Young Men and Boys above Ten, and not exceeding Twenty.	Number of Labourers generally out of Employment, and how unskilled.	Weekly Wages without Rent.	Weekly Wages with Rent.	Whether Labourers are sufficient to support the Gleaners according to the Extent of Occupation.	Whether any Distress is made in Wages paid to single Men.
<i>North-west—continued.</i>										
Maddingley - - -	350	1,500	None	55	34	1 to 4 on roads; paid by Surveyor.	10 s. 10 10 s.	- - -	No	- No
Milton - - -	379	1,378	None	48	24	8; paid out of Poor's Rates.	- - -	11 s. -	No	- No
Oakington - - -	512	1,487	None	95	40	20; paid out of Poor's Rates.	- - -	10 s. and milk.	No	- No
Rampton - - -	230	1,158	160 acres.	25	15	14; paid out of Poor's Rates.	- - -	10 s. -	No	Yes; married men, single men.
Waterbeach - - -	1,067	5,556	- -	120	55	- None -	10 s.	- - -	No	- No
<i>Papworth.</i>										
Benworth - - -	250	3,000	Large proportion.	- -	- -	- None -	9 s. 10 10 s.	- - -	No	- Yes
Cowington - - -	188	1,477	None	28	22	None; except old men, in- capable of work.	10 s.	- - -	Yes	- Yes
Elsworth - - -	750	3,700	None	75	45	71 parish work.	- - -	10 s. -	No	- Yes
Fen Drayton - - -	340	Above 5,000.	A great quantity, but the poor reap the benefit from it.	- -	- -	13 married men, and great number of young men and boys supported by Poor's Rates.	10 s.	- - -	No	- Yes
Greasley - - -	260	1,558	None	47	38	3 old men, by parish.	- -	9 s. 10 10 s.	No	12. let to single.
Knapwell - - -	140	5,000	None	- -	- -	- None -	10 s. and milk.	- - -	No	12. let to single.
Over - - -	571	3,700; one-third is the occu- pation of non-resi- dents.	- -	114	53	- - -	10 s.	- - -	No	- Yes
Papworth Everard	60	1,115	None	9	5	- None -	10 s.	- - -	No	- No
Papworth Agnes -	106	1,300	None	22	9	3 or 4 on the roads.	- -	10 s. to 12 s.	No	- No
Swavesey - - -	1,103	3,500	600	109	61	10; paid by Poor's Rates.	- -	10 s. and milk in winter.	Yes	- No
Willingham - - -	1,418	4,400	1,700	140	69	62; 1 Poor's Rate.	- -	12 s. 6 s. same as last Return.	No	- Yes

present to an Order made at the adjourned Quarter Sessions held on the 10th of December 1830, &c.—continued.

HOWES DIVISION—continued.

Whether any Allowance is made from the Poor's Rate in respect of large families.	Whether the System of Round-ware is practised.	Whether any Wages paid out of the Poor's Rate.	The Rent of Cottages.	Whether Gardens to the Cottages.	Whether any Land let to Labourers; if so, the Quantity.	What Charity Estates.	Whether any Fuel or Clothing given to the Poor.	The Price of Wood, Coal, or Turf.	Amount of Poor's Rate from Easter 1829 to Easter 1830.	Whether the Poor's Rate in the Three preceding Years was more or less than in 1830.
No	No	No	30s. to 50s.	Yes	Yes; to 18 half an acre each.	31s. per annum given to Poor in bread.	Yes; coal and turf.	Coal, 12s. 6d. per bushel.	214 l.	More.
No	No	No	3 l. to 5 l.	Very few.	Yes; 16 men 1 rood each.	A charity estate; the produce given to food to the Poor.	Yes; coal.	- -	5s. 3d. in the pound.	Less.
Yes	No	-	20s. to 4 l.	Yes	- - -	10 l. a year, laid out in coal for the Poor.	Yes; coal.	- -	308 l.	More.
Yes	No	Yes	30s. to 3 l.	Yes	No, but allowed to plant potatoes.	Small one, profits applied in purchase of coal.	Yes; turf and coal.	Coal, 12s. 6d. turf, 7s. 6d. thousand.	317 l.	Less.
-	No	-	52s. to 5 l.	Yes, some	Yes; 20 acres let to 44 persons.	Several; produce given to Poor.	Yes; fuel, clothing and meat.	Coal, 12s. 6d. turf, 8s. 2d. thousand.	379 l.	Less.
No	No	No	- -	Yes	- Yes -	No estate; money laid out in bread.	Yes; fuel.	-	-	-
Yes	No	No	30s. to 3 l.	Yes; some of them.	6 families, 1 acre of town-land each.	Land; 20 l. per annum laid out for coal.	Yes; coal.	- -	451 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	40s. to 3 l. 10s.	Yes; some of them.	- - -	Some laid in the management of the Rectory.	Yes; coal.	Coal, 12s. 6d. per bushel.	781 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	Generally high.	Yes; some.	- - -	3 acres of land; produce laid out in bread.	No.	-	-	-
No	No	No	2 l. to 3 l.	Yes; many of them.	Some allowed to plant potatoes.	- None -	Yes; fuel, clothing and bread.	Coal, 12s. 6d. turf, 10s. 6d. thousand.	212 l.	Rather more.
Yes	No	No	About 2 l.	Yes	- No -	6 acres of land; rent laid out in coal.	Yes; wood.	-	-	-
Yes	No	-	- -	- -	- - -	There is an estate and funds applied according to the will of donor.	Yes; fuel.	Coal, 1s. per bushel.	1,010 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	40s.	Yes; most of them.	- - -	- None -	Yes; fuel and clothing.	Coal, 12s. 6d. per bushel.	90 l.	Rather more.
Yes	No	-	1 l. 14s. to 2 l. 16s.	Yes	Yes; from 1 acre to 10, each cottager.	- None -	Yes; coal.	Reduced price of coal at 9d. 3d. bushel with-out fire.	162 l.	Less.
Yes	No	-	2 l. to 3 l.	Yes	Yes; large families have from 2 to 20 rods.	An estate, rent 60 l., disposed of in coal and blankets.	Yes; fuel and clothing.	Coal, 1s. per bushel.	1,382 l.	Rather more.
Yes	No	Yes	2 l. to 3 l. 10s.	Yes	Yes; in some cases from 10 to 40 poles.	Small one; rent given to money, clothing and food.	Yes; fuel and clothing.	Coal, 1s. 6d. per bushel.	1,415 l.	Rather more.

AN ABSTRACT OF THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS TRANSMITTED TO EACH PARISH IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE.

LONGSTOW DIVISION.

HUNDREDS and PARISHES.	Population.	Number of Acres in each Parish.	How much Com- mon.	Number of La- bours above 20 Years of Age.	Young Men and Boys above Ten, and not exceeding Twenty.	Number of Labourers generally out of Employment, and how maintained.	Weekly Wages without Beer.	Weekly Wages with Beer.	Whether Labourers are apprenticed amongst the Gentry according to the Statute of Occupation.	Whether any Deductions are made in Wages paid to married and single Men.
LONGSTOW.										
Boarn - - -	760	4,073	None	131	56	- None -	10s.	- 9s. -	No	- No -
Caldecot - - -	-	833	50 acres	18	7	- None -	10s.	- 9s. -	No	- Yes -
Croxton - - -	184	1,001	None	36	21	Two; paid out town by Poor's Rate.	9s. to 10s. men; 5s. to 7s. boys.	- - -	Yes	Single men, 14. less.
Croxton - - -	-	2,000	900	56	31	- None -	10s.	- - -	No	3s. less to single.
Ellisley - - -	511	1,941	140	45	16	None; sometimes 12 to 14, and paid from Poor's Rate.	9s.	- - -	No	1s. less to single.
Evereden, Great -	168	1,000	None	40	20	- None -	10s.	- - -	No	Yes; single men, 5s. only.
Evereden, Little -	232	670	None	30	15	- None -	10s.	- - -	No	Yes; single men, 8s. only.
Gemsden, Little -	225	1,896	None	21	9	14, employed in parish work.	10s.	- - -	No	- Yes -
Gerringsay - - -	1,450	4,143	800th part thereof.	150	150	70 is wheat, 50 is summer, on the roads and other parish work.	10s.	- - -	No	- Yes -
Hardwicks - - -	-	1,510	70	25	16	Two; paid out of Poor Rates.	10s.	- - -	No	- - -
Hadley St. George	85	1,000	- - -	-	-	- - -	- - -	9s. -	- - -	- - -
Kingston - - -	245	1,807	- - -	57	31	8	- - -	10s. -	Yes	Yes; single men, 12. less.
Longstow - - -	210	1,412	None	20	6	- None -	10s.	- 9s. -	No	- No -
Taft - - - - -	-	1,040	None	40	16	- None -	10s. married men.	- - -	No	Yes; 4d. less to single men.

present to an Order made at the adjourned Quarter Sessions held on the 10th of December 1836, &c.—continued.

LONGSTOW DIVISION.

Whether any Allowance is made from the Poor's Rate on account of large families.	Whether the System of Bonifications is practised.	Whether any Wages paid out of the Poor's Rate.	The Rent of Cottages.	Whether Gardens to the Cottages.	Whether any Land let to Labourers; if so, the Quantity.	What Charitable Tenures.	Whether any Fuel or Clothing given to the Poor.	The Price of Wood, Coal, or Turf.	Amount of Poor's Rate from Easter (8th) to Easter 1836.	Whether the Poor's Rate in the Three preceding Years was more or less than in 1836.
No	No	No	35 s. to 50 s.	Yes; some of them.	Yes; 10 acres in roads and half roads.	Several, amounting to 6 l. 8 s. given to the Poor in food.	Yes; food and clothing.	Coal, 12 s. 6 d. to 14 s. 6 d.; Firewood, 10 s. 6 d. per Hundred; Wood, 12 s. 6 d. per Bush.	£. s. d. 541 - -	Less.
Yes	No	No	2 l. 10 s.	Yes	- No -	Estate, let for 50 s. given in money to Poor.	Yes; coals.	Cambridge price.	105 - -	Less.
No	-	Yes	30 s.	Yes	Yes; 7 acres let in quarter and half acres each.	Estate, amounting to 30 l. 11 s. given to Poor in bread and coals.	- - -	- - -	105 - -	More.
Yes	No	No	1 l. to 4 l.	Yes; some of them.	- No -	Yes; but not at present available.	Yes; clothes and coals.	Coals, 6 d. per bushel.	498 12 -	More by 76 l.
No	No	Yes	45 s.	Most of them.	- No -	- No -	Yes; coals.	- - -	111 - -	More.
Yes	No	No	30 s. to 50 s.	Yes	Yes; 1 acre to each Labourer.	Small estate, producing 4 l. a year	Yes; both.	Sold to Poor at reduced prices.	136 - -	The same.
Occasionally.	No	No	30 s. to 50 s.	Yes	- ditto -	- None -	Yes; both.	- ditto -	109 - -	Less by 26 l.
Yes	No	Yes	40 s. to 4 l.	Yes, to some.	No; 10 to be 5 acres.	An allotment of land, and a small charity for the church and free school.	Yes; coals.	8 d. per bushel.	176 - -	Less by 38 l.
Yes	No	Yes	50 s. to 6 l.	Yes, to some.	- - -	An allotment, consisting of 10 townships, endowed with 60 l. a year for poor widows.	Yes; coals occasionally; turf gratis.	Coals, 3 s. 6 d. per bushel; Wood, 10 s. 6 d. per pole.	1,380 - -	About the same.
Yes	No	No	30 s. to 40 s.	Yes	- No -	- None -	Turf is given to the widows.	Turf, 7 s. 6 d. per —	143 10 -	Less by 6 l.
Occasionally.	No	-	30 s. to 40 s.	Yes	- - -	- None -	-	-	-	-
No	No	-	50 s. to 3 l.	Yes	- No -	9 acres of arable, let at 16 s. per acre; rent divided amongst the Poor.	Yes; coals.	- - -	143 - -	Less.
No	No	No	3 l.	Yes	Yes; married men have from 1 rood to 2 ½ roods.	A charity estate, producing 20 l. profit, applied to church repairs and clothing the Poor.	Yes; coals and clothing.	-	-	-
No	No	No	2 l. 10 s.	Yes	- No -	A small estate, rent 50 s., distributed amongst the Poor.	- - -	Cambridge price.	150 - -	-

AN ABSTRACT OF THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS transmitted to each Parish in the County of CAMBRIDGE.

LINTON DIVISION.

HUNDREDS and PARISHES.	Population.	Number of Acre in each Parish.	How much Com- mon.	Number of La- bours above 20 Years of Age.	Young Men and Boys above Ten, and not exceeding Twenty.	Number of Labourers generally out of Employment, and how employed.	Weekly Wages without Beer.	Weekly Wages with Beer.	Whether Labourers are supported except the Occupiers something to the Extent of Dormitory.	Whether any Distress is made in Wages paid to carriers and other Men.
CHILFORD.										
Akington, Great -	264	1,500	None	60	23	- - -	10s.	- 9s.	Yes	No
Akington, Little -	183	1,120	None	39	23	Goldsmen, paid by parish out of Poor Rates.	10s.	- 9s.	No	No
Babraham -	181	6,350	None	44	30	- None -	9s.	- - -	Yes	No
Bartlow - -	148	380	None	26	5	None, except 2 infirm per- sons.	10s.	- 9s.	No	No
Castle Camps -	Near 700	2,613	None	36	56	15, paid out of Poor Rates.	10s.	- 9s.	No	Single men's only 7s.
Hildesham -	200	1,450	None	36	12	3 on the roads occasionally.	9s.	- - -	No	No
Horsebooth -	414	1,677	3 acres	49	18	- None -	10s.	- 9s.	No	No
Linton - -	1,500	3,963	40 acres	169	70	41, employed by Surveyor of the roads, and paid out of Poor Rates.	10s.	- 9s.	No	No
Pampisford - -	287	1,300	None	51	16	Very few, at parish work.	10s.	- 9s.	No	-
Shudy Camps -	486	2,300	None	77	26	- None -	10s.	- - -	Yes	No
West Wickham -	552	2,637	None	100	47	- None -	10s.	- 9s.	No	No
THIRPLOW.										
Peulmire - -	541	2,362	331 acres.	68	23	From 6 to 8 in winter, and dig gravel for the parish.	- - -	10s. to 12s.	No	Yes
Foston - -	402	1,582	None	53	37	- - -	- - -	10s.	No	Yes; single only 7s.
Hinton - -	546	1,480	None	83	26	- None -	9s. to 10s.	- - -	No	No

present to an Order made at the adjourned Quarter Sessions held on the 10th of December 1830, &c.—continued.

LINTON DIVISION.

Whether any Allowance is made from the Poor's Rate on account of large families.	Whether the System of Ransoms is in practice.	Whether any Wages are paid out of the Poor's Rate.	The Rent of Cottages.	Whether Gardens to the Cottages.	Whether any Land let to Labourers; if so, the quantity.	What Charitable Estates.	Whether any Fuel or Clothing given to the Poor.	The Price of Wood, Coal, or Turf.	Amount of Poor's Rate from Easter 1829 to Easter 1830.	Whether the Poor's Rate in the Three preceding Years was more or less than in 1829.
Yes	No	- -	4s. 6. to 5s.	- -	Yes; 2 Labourers, 1 acre each.	- None -	- None -	- -	321 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	5s.	Yes; most of them.	- None -	Only 3 a. 4 d. per annum.	Yes; both.	- -	181 l.	More.
Yes; 1 family.	No	- -	30 s. to 40 s.	Yes; most of them about 15 poles each.	- None -	A charge on the Birkham Estate for the support of 6 poor widows and a free school.	Yes; coals to widows.	- -	165 l.	Less.
Two families.	No	- -	3l. to 4l.	Yes; most of them.	- None -	1 l. a year on Dr. Carter's Will, given to a poor man for coals.	- -	Coals, 1 s. per bushel.	103 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	Average, 3l.	- -	1 rood to each Labourer.	A small bequest, about £100 a year, divided amongst the Poor.	Yes; coals.	19 d. per bushel.	983 l.	Less.
No	3l. to 6l.	No	3l. to 6l.	Yes; few.	- -	- None -	Yes; coals and clothing.	- -	160 l.	But little variation.
Yes	No	- -	5l. to 4l.	Yes; some.	- -	As Estate let at 5l. 10s. to the Poor; another 4l. 9s. to 12 old children for bread.	Yes; fuel and clothing.	- -	145 l.	Rather more.
Yes	No	2l. 10s. to 5l.	Very few.	Very few.	No; about 20 poles each allowed for potatoes.	- -	Yes; coals and clothing.	- -	2,046 l.	Less.
No	No	No	50s.	No	5 acres let to Labourers.	As Estate; the produce goes to support the church, and residue to Poor for clothes and coals.	- -	- -	255 l.	Less.
Yes	No	- -	5l. to 5l.	Yes; mostly.	- -	About 7 acres; no distribution for the last 3 years, owing to a Chancery suit.	Yes; both.	- -	497 l.	More.
Yes	No	No	36s. to 4l.	Yes; some of them.	- No -	- No -	Yes; both.	Coals, 1s. 4d. per bushel; Wood, 3d. per faggot; Turf, 2s. 6. thousand.	571 l.	Less.
-	No	- -	30s. to 70s.	Without gardens; with gardens.	No; but married men have about 20 or 30 poles for potatoes.	5 acres of land, worth 5 s., for residue of church, and residue to Poor; also remittance of 10 s. a year to the Poor.	Yes; coals.	Coals, 1s. 4d. per bushel.	430 l.	Less.
No	No	- -	40s. to 5l.	Yes; to most of them.	- No -	- None -	Yes; coals.	Coals, 1s. 4d. per bushel.	468 l.	Less.
Yes	No	- -	2l. to 4l.	Some have.	- -	2 a. 2 r. 14 p. rent to support church; 2 l. 10s. to the Poor yearly.	- -	Cambridge prices, 1s. 2d.	449 l.	More.

AN ABSTRACT of the ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS transmitted to each Parish in the County of CAMBRIDGE.

LINTON DIVISION—continued.

HUNDREDS and PARISHES.	Population.	Number of Acres in each Parish.	How much Com- mon.	Number of La- bourers above 20 Years of Age.	Young Men and Boys above Ten, and not exceeding Twenty.	Number of Labourers generally out of Employment, and how maintained.	Weekly Wages without Rent.	Weekly Wages with Rent.	Whether Labourers are apportioned amongst the Occupiers according to the Extent of Occupation.	Whether any Summings is made in Wages paid to married single Men.
THRIPLow—contd.										
Hinton - -	241	568	None	28	17	3 to winter; many in the sum- mer when the oil will not set work.	9s.	- - -	No	Yes; single 2s. less.
Newton - -	173	940	30	32	12	- None -	- - -	10s.	No	- Yes -
Stapleford - -	428	1,400	None	55	31	6, divided among the farmers by agreement.	11s.	- 10s.	Yes	- - -
Shelford, Great -	790	1,800	400	150	37	From 15 to 30, not constantly, men are em- ployed at spade labour by the farmers.	- - -	10s.	Yes	Yes; single men 12s. each.
Shelford, Little -	480	1,500	None	05	46	15, by Poor's Rate.	11s.	- 10s.	No	- Yes -
Trumpington -	500	2,000	None	92	28	4 old men by Surveyors, and paid out of Poor Rate.	11s.	- 10s.	Yes	- No -
Thriplow - -	389	2,507	200	62	37	- None -	- - -	10s. to 11s.	Nearly so	- Yes -
RADFIELD HALF.										
Elstham - -	1,097	4,400	None	189	90	15, employed by the Ser- veyors; paid out of Poor Rates.	10s.	- 9s.	No	- No -
Culston - -	395	2,200	None	52	36	3 to 10 on the roads; paid out of Poor Rates.	- - -	9s.	No	- No -
West Winstling -	746	3,441	None	136	62	About 20, who are paid out of the Poor Rates.	- - -	9s.	Yes	- Yes -
Winton Colville -	484	2,943	None	61	31	- - -	10s.	- 9s.	Yes	- Yes -
WHITLEDEN.										
Daxford - -	605	2,932	None	94	32	About 6	- - -	10s.	Yes	- No -
Hinton - -	312	1,503	None	42	15	6 old men	- - -	9s.	Yes	- No -

present to an Order made at the adjourned Quarter Sessions held on the 10th of December 1830, &c.—continued.

LINTON DIVISION—continued.

Whether any Allowance is made from the Poor's Rate on account of large Families.	Whether the System of Boarding is practised.	Whether any Wages paid out of the Poor's Rate.	The Rent of Cottages.	Whether Gardens to the Cottages.	Whether any Land let to Labourers; if so, the Quantity.	What Charitable Estates.	Whether any Fuel or Clothing given to the Poor.	The Price of Wood, Coal, or Turf.	Amount of Poor's Rate from Easter till to Easter after.	Whether the Poor's Rate in the Three preceding Years was more or less than in 1830.
No	No	-	2l. to 5l.	Some have.	No	25a. given to the Poor yearly.	No	-	150 l.	More.
-	No	-	40s. to 50s.	Some have.	No; all have land out free, to plant potatoes.	Only of 1 l. 6s. given to the Poor yearly.	Yes; coals to widows.	Coals, 1s. 4d. per bushel.	170 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	50s. to 5l.	Some	10 acres of land let to Poor in acres and half acres.	One third of the rent of a cottage, and 17 acres of land.	Yes; coals occasionally to widows.	Cambridge price, 1s. 3d.	261 ..	More.
-	No	-	30s. to 4l. 50s. to 4l. 4s.	Without gardens; with garages.	No; but allowed land to grow potatoes.	The profits of a Charitable Estate are given to the Poor.	Yes; coals.	-	820 l.	Less.
No	No	-	2l. to 4l.	Some	No	a Charitable providing 2 l. 10s. 6d. given to the Poor.	No	-	271 l.	Nearly the same.
Yes	No	No	50s. to 6l.	Some	-	From a Charitable Estate at Buntingham, 20 l. per annum, expended in coals.	Yes; coals.	-	503 l.	Less.
-	No	No	40s. to 50s.	Some	No; allowed land to plant potatoes rent free.	An Estate worth 5l. 11s. 6d. per annum given to the Poor.	-	-	284 l.	More.
Yes	No	-	40s. to 60s.	Very few	No	33l. a year distributed to the Poor in money.	Yes	Coals, 13s. 6d. per hundred; turf, 14s. per thousand; coal, 3s. per bag.	1,158 l.	Much less.
Yes	No	-	40s. to 80s.	About one half.	No	10s. a year given to the very old, in clothing.	Yes; coal and turf.	-	418 l.	Less.
Yes	No	-	3l.	To most of them.	No	- None -	Yes; coals and clothing.	Coals, 1s. 6d. per bushel.	954 l.	Less.
Yes	No	-	2l. 2s.	Yes	No	A small Estate and some other money applied to the Poor.	- ditto -	Coals, 1s. 1d. per bushel; turf, 20s. a thousand; given gratis.	519 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	2l. to 5l.	Some	No	A small Estate given to the Poor in bread and butter.	Coals sold to the Poor at 20d. or 25d. per bushel.	-	631 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	40s. to 100s.	Some	No	25l. per annum, but can be fuel and clothing.	Yes	Coals 15d. to 16d. per bushel.	348 l.	Less.

AN ABSTRACT of the ANSWERS to the QUESTIONS transmitted to each Parish in the County of CAMBRIDGE.

LINTON DIVISION—continued.

HUNDREDS and PARISHES.	Population.	Number of Acres in each Parish.	How much Com- mon.	Number of La- bours above 10 Years of Age.	Young Men and Boys above Ten, and not exceeding Twenty.	Number of Labourers generally out of Employment, and how maintained.	Weekly Wages without Beer.	Weekly Wages with Beer.	Whether Labourers are sufficiently occupied according to the Nature of Occupation.	Whether any Distress is made in Wages paid to married and single Men.
WHITTLESPORD—contd.										
Ickleton - -	602	2,572	None	83	50	A few -	- -	9 s. to 10 s.	No	No
Sawston - -	777	1,896	None	109	34	Six at Parish work; paid out of Poor Rates.	11 s.	10 s.	Chiefly	Yes; 1 s. extra to mar- ried men.
Whittleford -	486	1,915	None	70	40	10 men and boys on parish and road work; and paid out of Rates.	- -	9 s.	No	No

NEWMARKET DIVISION.

STATED.										
Borewell - -	1,698	6,306	None	232	94	No regular number.	10 s.	9 s.	No	No
Chippenham -	608	4,500	None	112	88	8, supported by the parish.	10 s. to 12 s.	- -	No	Yes; accord- ing to their age.
Isleham - -	1,070	4,366	50 acres.	291	200	None during summer; 40 during winter; maintained by the parish.	- -	12 s.	No	No
Fordham - -	1,293	4,050	None	309	123	In the winter 30 to 40 on the roads, and paid out of Poor Rates.	10 s.	- -	No	Yes; single men, 1 s. less.
Kernett - -	183	1,400	None	24	15	6, supported by the parish.	- -	9 s. to 12 s.	No	Yes
Landwade - -	27	120	None	4	None	- None -	- -	9 s.	Yes	Yes
Snailwell - -	236	1,830	None	57	19	- None -	10 s. to 12 s.	- -	No	No

present to an Order made at the adjourned Quarter Sessions held on the 10th of December 1830, &c.— continued.

LINTON DIVISION—continued.

Whether any allowance is made from the Poor's Rate on account of large Families.	Whether the Expense of Boarding is paid out of the Poor's Rate.	Whether any Wages paid out of the Poor's Rate.	The Rate of Cottages.	Whether Gardens are the Cottages.	Whether any Land is let to Labourers; if so, the Quantity.	What Charity Estates.	Whether any Fuel or Clothing given to the Poor.	The Price of Wood, Coal, or Turf.	Amount of Poor's Rate &c. in Lances 1830 to Easter 1831.	Whether the Poor's Rate in the Town exceeds what was more or less than in 1829.
None with large families employed at any work.	No	No	50 s. to 60 s.	Some	No	A small Estate, given to the Poor in clothing.	Coals sold to the Poor at 6d. & 7d. per bush.	-	644 l.	Less.
Yes	No	Yes	50 s. to 60 s.	Yes	Yes	An Estate, the profits of which are paid out in coals, and afterwards sold cheap to the Poor.	Yes; coals.	6d. p' bush.	403 l.	More.
Indifferent	-	No; exception in all cases.	30 s. to 50 s.	Most of them.	No	- - An Estate of 40 acres in Essex, for the support of a Charity School for Boys and Girls; and an Estate in Wiltshire of 80 acres, let for £21 a year, for the use of the Poor; and a rent-charge upon three acres of Church of 20s. Out of these the Poor are supplied with money, and 300 bushels of coals, at 1s. 5d. per bushel.	-	-	422 l.	Less.

NEWMARKET DIVISION.

Yes	No	No	50 s. to 70 s.	Most of them.	No	Charities distributed in money, bread, fuel, &c. to the Poor.	Yes; coals and turf.	Coals, 10s. 6d. per hundred; Turf, 8s. per thousand.	1,884 l.	Less.
Yes	No	No	40 s. to 50 s.	Yes	No	24 l. 12s. 6d. annually distributed between the Poor and a Charity School.	Yes; clothing and fuel.	Turf, 9 s. per thousand.	623 l.	Less.
Yes	No	-	3 l.	No	No	60 acres of land, for the maintenance of ten widows and widowers; also 40 l. given every Christmas in clothing, and 24s. every Sunday in bread.	- None -	-	1,390 l.	More.
Yes	No	-	3 l. to 5 l.	Ten of them.	Yes; 8 acres.	16 acres of land, producing 125 12s. per ann. which, with 20 l. 12s. advanced by the Overseers, purchase 142,000 turfs, which are given to the Poor.	Yes; clothing.	-	608 l.	The same as 3 preceding years.
No	No	-	50 s. to 70 s.	Yes	No	An Estate, the profits, part given in coals, and the residue to support church.	- Yes -	-	100 l.	Less.
Yes	No	-	3 l.	Yes	No	- No -	Yes; fuel.	-	53 l.	Same as preceding years.
Yes	No	No	30 s. to 60 s.	To some	No	3 roads; rent 12s. distributed in bread to the Poor.	There is a piece of land of 53 acres, called the Poor's Fire, from whence the Labourers cut their fuel.	-	140 l.	About the same.

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(continued)

AN ABSTRACT OF THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS TRANSMITTED TO EACH PARISH IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE.

NEWMARKET DIVISION—continued.

HUNDREDS and PARISHES.	Population.	Number of Acres in each Parish.	How much Com- mon.	Number of Lab- ourers above 16 Years of Age.	Young Men and Boys above Ten, and not succeeding Twenty.	Number of Labourers generally out of Employment, and how maintained.	Weekly Wages without Beer.	Weekly Wages with Beer.	Whether Labourers are apprenticed except the Cottagers according to the Extent of Occupation.	Whether any Distances is made in Wages paid to married and single Men.
STAPLE—contd.										
Soham - -	4,000	12 to 13,000	200	380	90	- - 80 is the winter sea- son, and em- ployed by the surveyors and overseers on highways, and paid out of Poor Rates.	- - -	10 s. -	No	- - -
Wicken - -	844	3,351	None	143	59	- - -	- - -	10 s. -	No	Yes; from 1s. to 3 s. 6d.
CHEVELEY.										
Ashley - -	344	2,143	None	67	16	- - -	10 s.	- - -	No	- - -
Cheveley - -	531	2,489	6 acres	60	35	- None -	10 s.	- 9 s. -	No	- - -
Kirtling - -	700	3,016	None	169	71	- None -	8 s. to 10 s.	- - -	No	- - -
Newmarket - -	-	-	-	-	-	- No Return made; but Newmarket lies in Suffolk as well as	-	-	-	-
Woodditton -	776	4,899	-	178	178	10 old men employed on the roads.	9 s.	- 8 s. -	No	- - -
RADFIELD HALF.										
Brinkley - -	280	1,500	None	40	20	- - -	9 s. to 10 s.	- - -	No	- - -
Bero' Green -	430	2,000	None	65	28	- - -	9 s.	- - -	No	- - -
Dellingham -	674	3,210	None	91	38	15 work on the roads, and paid out of Poor Rates.	9 s. to 10 s.	- - -	No	- - -
Stetchworth -	462	2,884	None	70	26	- - -	9 s. to 10 s.	- - -	No	- - -
Westley - -	86	1,000	None	18	9	- None -	9 s.	- - -	No	- - -

present to an Order made at the adjourned Quarter Sessions held on the 10th of December 1880, &c.—continued.

NEWMARKET DIVISION—continued.

Whether any Allowance is made from the Poor's Rate on account of large families.	Whether the System of Bonuses is pursued.	Whether any Wages paid out of the Poor's Rate.	The Rate of Carriages.	Whether Gardens to the Cottages.	Whether any Land let to Labourers; if so, the Quantity.	What Charity Estates.	Whether any Fuel or Clothing given to the Poor.	The Price of Wood, Coal, or Turf.	Amount of Poor's Rate from Easter 1880 to Easter 1881.	Whether the Poor's Rate in the Three preceding Years was more or less than in 1880.
Yes	No	- -	3 <i>l.</i> to 3 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	Yes, small ones.	- - -	Several considerable estates.	Yes, both.	Coal, 13 <i>s.</i> ; turf, 7 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per 1,000.	The Rates for this period have been granted by Court of Quarter Sessions, and the amounts are calculated to relieve.	In 1887, 2,109 <i>l.</i> In 1888, 1,379 <i>l.</i> In 1889, 2,088 <i>l.</i>
Yes	No	No	2 <i>l.</i> to 3 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	Yes, small ones.	- No -	2 acres of land; produce given to Poor.	Yes, both to widows and aged.	Turf, 6 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per 1,000.	710 <i>l.</i>	Less.
Yes, but nothing.	No	No	3 <i>l.</i> 3 <i>s.</i> to 4 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i>	Yes	- No -	- None -	Yes, blankets and temp.	Coal, 16 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> a bushel; turf, 8 <i>s.</i> a 1,000.	280 <i>l.</i>	More.
Yes	No	- -	50 <i>s.</i> to 4 <i>l.</i>	Yes, most of them.	- - -	8 acres land; rent, 13 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 9 <i>d.</i> distributed to Poor.	Yes, fuel.	- -	427 <i>l.</i>	Less.
No	No	- -	50 <i>s.</i>	Yes, 20 poles.	Yes, half an acre to most of them.	2 acres and a half; rent to Poor.	Yes, coal and clothing.	- -	625 <i>l.</i>	More.
Cambridge; and a very small quantity lies in Cambridge.										
- -	No	- -	30 <i>s.</i> to 50 <i>s.</i>	Yes	- - -	- None -	Yes, coal.	Coal, 12 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i>	959 <i>l.</i>	Less.
- -	No	- -	2 <i>l.</i> to 22 <i>l.</i>	Yes	- No -	- None -	Yes, both, to old persons.	- -	282 <i>l.</i>	More.
Yes	No	- -	2 <i>l.</i> 12 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	Yes	- No -	- None, except a charity school.	Yes, coal.	- -	371 <i>l.</i>	About the same.
Yes	No	- -	3 <i>l.</i> to 5 <i>l.</i>	Yes	- - -	Yes, and property applied.	Money given.	- -	- -	Average of last 3 years, 672 <i>l.</i>
Yes	No	No	2 <i>l.</i> to 2 <i>l.</i> 10 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>	Yes, most of them.	- - -	An almshouse for 6 men and women, with 12 weekly, &c.; and rent of an acre of land, rent 40 <i>s.</i> given to blankets.	Yes, both.	Turf, 6 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per 1,000.	501 <i>l.</i>	Less.
No	No	- -	50 <i>s.</i>	Yes	- No -	Yes, & profits to the Poor.	Yes, coal.	Coal, 12 <i>s.</i> 1 <i>d.</i> per bushel.	45 <i>l.</i>	About the same.

*Die Martis, 29^o Martii 1831.*29 March,
1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Order of Adjournment read.

After Discussion ;

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Thursday the 14th of April next, at Twelve o'Clock.

*Die Jovis, 14^o Aprilis 1831.*14 April,
1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Order of Adjournment read.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Veneris, 15^o Aprilis 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Thomas Chapman, Esquire, called in ; and Examined, as follows :

T. Chapman, Esq.

15 April,
1831.

WHAT are you?—I am a land agent and surveyor.

Have you been much engaged in Inclosure Bills?—Very much indeed. I have attended, I should suppose, at least twenty or thirty commissions.

In what counties?—In different counties; a great many round the neighbourhood of London, in the counties of Middlesex and Surrey.

Can you state the expense of obtaining an Inclosure Act?—That relates rather to the solicitor; it depends entirely upon the extent of the inclosure.

Does the expense of obtaining a Bill depend on the extent of the inclosure?—So far as relates to the obtaining the consents; the more proprietors there are, the greater is the expense of obtaining the consents.

Have those expenses any reference to the value of the land to be inclosed, or are they dependent on the number of proprietors?—They have no reference at all to the value of the land to be inclosed. The expenses are generally paid by sale of a portion of the land to be inclosed, and sometimes by a proportionate rate assessed upon the proprietors; but in either case, the value of the land is not affected, although the profit of an inclosure is of course affected by the expenses.

You are unable to state to the Committee the expense of passing an Inclosure Bill through Parliament?—I suppose it would generally be from five to six hundred pounds; it may be more occasionally.

Has it come to your knowledge, that any inclosures have been prevented by the expenses attendant upon the Bills?—I have never known that circumstance to occur as to those proposed inclosures on which I have been consulted, and afterwards acted as commissioner.

You act as a land agent?—Yes.

Have you ever been consulted about the advantage of inclosing waste lands?—

Yes;

Yes; I have frequently given in reports as to the advantage to be derived from an inclosure.

Have you taken into consideration in those reports the expense of obtaining the Act?—Yes, in a general kind of way; it all depends on the opposition which may arise; if there is no opposition, the expense will be small, comparatively.

Have you ever abstained from recommending an inclosure of any waste land, in consideration of the expense attendant upon it?—I never was called upon to give an opinion where it was so circumstanced; all the inclosures I have been upon, have been such as would well pay the expense; and I do not remember one single instance of being called upon to give an opinion where the expenses would at all interfere with the eligibility of it.

In talking of expenses, are you bearing in mind the expenses attendant on passing the Act of Parliament, or merely the expense of carrying on the inclosure?—I take into consideration all the expenses likely to arise in carrying the inclosure into execution, up to the award.

Among those, do you include the expenses of passing the Act of Parliament?—Yes.

Do not you consider those as in general the greatest?—No, I think not, in a general way.

Are those expenses decreased in proportion to what they used to be?—The inclosures have been of late very few, so that I cannot speak to the expenses latterly. I think I have not attended any new inclosures for the last six or seven years; only completing the old ones.

Have you been engaged on the part of the Crown in any inclosures?—No; Mr. Driver has been generally on the part of the Crown.

Have you been engaged in the inclosure of what is generally termed Bagshot Heath?—No; but adjoining to it, in the parish of Stanwell, I have been concerned; and also in almost all the inclosures of Hounslow Heath, Hillingdon Heath, and Uxbridge Moor.

Can you state the number of acres inclosed on Hounslow Heath?—My memory will not serve me with that at present; but I should think the quantity of waste land on Hounslow Heath which has been inclosed would not be less than between three and four thousand acres.

Can you state what the expenses, subsequent to the passing of the Act of Parliament, were on that inclosure of three or four thousand acres?—That was not all in one inclosure; I mean that the waste land under several inclosures might amount to that. I cannot speak to the precise quantity.

Can you state correctly the expense of any one inclosure you have been concerned in on Hounslow Heath?—I was not aware of the particulars on which I was likely to be examined, and my memory is not, in consequence of an illness, such as to enable me to answer, at the moment, to those particulars.

Is not the expense of making out the titles of the proprietors very considerable?—That does not at all affect the expense of the inclosure, as the same lies between the parties contending as to the title. The commissioners receive the claims according as they are put in; and if two parties produce a claim to the same estate, the commissioners make an allotment for that estate, and leave it to the parties claiming to contend their title in a court of law.

Would it be right to pass an Inclosure Act without well arranging those claims?—The arrangement of the claims is after the Act is passed; but the same would not be carried into execution without the commissioners obtaining all the information thereon that comes within their power; but as to the legality of the title, the commissioners have nothing to do with it, as before stated; but they make an allotment for the estate so disputed, to go to the party who proves his title to the same by course of law.

For instance, if you were to inclose a common, there will be numerous claims upon that common?—Yes, according to the extent of the property within the parish to be inclosed.

Do not the cottagers very often claim rights of common?—Certainly; and ancient cottages that have enjoyed rights of common are allowed allotments for the same; but not for modern cottages.

Is it not a matter of some trouble to decide which cottages have a right of common, and which have not?—That we always take evidence upon.

That is a matter of expense?—It is a matter of expense so far as it detains the commissioners longer upon the business.

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You would not think it right that the commissioners should make their final award without inquiring into those claims?—Certainly not.

Those claims are very often very numerous?—Yes, and frequently very incorrect; we have many claims brought forward, for which there is no ground whatever.

Can you state what has been the average duration of the commissions after the passing of the Inclosure Act?—They would vary from one year to six or seven, according to circumstances.

Do you think that inclosing a common is an advantage to the cottagers who have a right to that common?—I do think that it is, because it gives them a portion of land to themselves, which they can cultivate and manage as they please.

Do they not very often sell their land?—Sometimes they do.

Do not they sometimes spend the money in drink?—That depends upon the character of the man.

Do you not conceive it of great advantage to the cottagers of this country to be enabled to turn out a cow?—If they have no other land I do not think the advantage is so great; if they have other land where they can winter the cow, then I think the advantage is great.

Is it the case that a man has a right of common, where he has no other land?—Yes; frequently he has no land attached to his cottage, yet possesses a right of turning out stock by ancient usage, and by particular customs which regulate the commons; but in other instances it is a common without stint, and therefore no rules govern them.

There are two things to look at—the appropriation of waste, and of another description of land, namely, the commonable land which is to be appropriated; does it incur an additional expense where the commonable land preponderates?—It increases the expense, because there are different rights to be inquired into. We proceed by taking a view of every spot of land, and making a division of the qualities of the lands, and fixing the price according to those qualities; then they are all collected together in money at those various prices, to show the amount which is allottable; then we allot it out according to the respective values of each proprietor's estate.

Is it not your opinion that a great portion of what is termed waste land in England is irreclaimable; that it is not cultivatable at the present prices of agricultural produce?—I think there are some acres. If you get down into Yorkshire among the high grounds, there it perhaps would not pay the expense of cultivating; there are certain portions notwithstanding that even there would be beneficial to be inclosed.

Do you conceive that there is any waste land in this kingdom capable of profitable cultivation?—A great deal.

Have you any notion of the extent of it?—No; I cannot speak as to that; I never turned my mind to the extent; but I see a great deal of waste land as I travel to different parts of the kingdom, that would pay very well for the inclosure of it.

Will you specify any districts of the kingdom in which those waste lands to which you have alluded are situate?—There is a great portion of the different forests, and there are certain commons still remaining open near to the metropolis, which consist of very good land: one in the neighbourhood of Richmond Haw common, which is very good land, remarkably so; and another in the neighbourhood of Barnes; but I cannot at this moment enumerate them all.

Do you mean to include as waste lands Downs?—Yes; I mean by waste lands all that kind of land that remains open to a common right, in which no person has a severalty.

Then you mean that the Sussex South Downs, for instance, are waste lands?—They are in a great degree held in severalty as sheep walks.

Do you consider that one of the Sussex South Downs, on which there are numerous rights of feeding sheep, are waste lands?—Yes; I should consider them as coming under the denomination of waste lands, though profitably occupied as sheep walks.

Do you believe that ploughing up those Downs would be a more profitable employment than feeding those Downs with sheep?—Certainly not.

Then, when you state that there is a great deal of waste land in England, you do not mean to say that all that land, or even a great proportion of it, could be more profitably

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profitably employed than it is at the present moment?—I mean, that though some lands under the denomination of waste lands are profitably employed as sheep walks, and would not answer to be ploughed, yet, when that land is put into severalty, a much greater improvement will take place than while it remains in a state of open common.

Does Epping Forest belong to the Crown?—Yes.

What advantage does the Crown derive from Epping Forest?—The advantage the Crown derives from Epping Forest is that of feeding deer and raising timber.

Do you understand by waste lands, all lands which are subject to common rights without stint?—That is what we generally consider as waste land.

Is Epping Forest subject to rights?—Yes.

The Crown has a limited right in Epping Forest, with other rights in the subject?—Yes; but it is called a royal forest; there are rights to every estate surrounding Epping Forest; all the different parishes round the Forest have rights for their cattle.

And there are inclosed lands within the common?—Yes.

Have you observed that a great increase of cottages takes place usually after an inclosure?—Certainly; there is a great increase after an inclosure.

It generally happens that small allotments have been sold, and upon those allotments numbers of cottages have been built?—I do not recollect that that particular circumstance has occurred; the cottages are certainly generally built on the smaller allotments that are awarded, but not on the lots sold; those lots so sold are generally kept by the purchasers, who occupy it as land.

There is a great increase of population after inclosure?—Yes.

Do you think that the condition of the Poor, where those inclosures have taken place, has been improved by those inclosures?—I have no doubt of it; there has been a great deal more labour produced in consequence of the inclosure.

Do you think the increase of population has been greater than the proportion of increased labour?—No, I do not think that it has.

You conceive that there is in England a great quantity of waste land not at present in severalty, but in common?—Yes.

That there is a great deal of such land capable of profitable cultivation, on which at present no profit is made, by sheep walks or otherwise, but in common rights?—Yes, a great portion.

In that quantity you do not include lands such as those that have been referred to existing in Sussex?—Yes, I include them as capable of improvement; but wherever there is a good Down land, I would not by any means recommend it to be broken up.

Are you personally acquainted with the county of Southampton?—I am, in the course of business.

Have you been in the course of business in the neighbourhood of the New Forest?—Yes, I have passed through the New Forest.

Are you not of opinion that there is a great portion of that land that is capable of cultivation at the present prices of agricultural produce?—I am not able to speak as to the whole extent of it; but in passing through it appears to me there is a great deal that may be very profitably improved.

Do you judge from what is growing upon it?—Yes; from the herbage of it.

Will you point out on which side of the Forest the land you refer to lies?—In the parish of Ealing there is a large tract of heath land, and large ponds.

Do you consider that as land to which the plough could be applied with any chance of profit?—If the soil is extremely thin, with a clay bottom; for instance, if there is not above six inches of soil, it would not answer the expenses.

If the soil be of this description,—a white hungry sand, with a sandstone at bottom, would that answer?—No, certainly not.

Are you not aware that that soil exists to a great extent near the Forest?—There is some of that land.

There is a large extent of wild country bordering on Dorsetshire; are you of opinion that that would answer for cultivation?—I cannot, from recollection, answer that question.

You have gone from the Royal Military College to Hartford Bridge?—I have.

According to your judgment is that a soil that is reclaimable to profit?—I am hardly able sufficiently to answer that question, because I cannot bring the nature of the soil before my mind at the present moment. A great deal depends, in respect to that inferior sort of land, on what is the nature of the substratum. In

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Norfolk there is a great deal of light sandy land, which some persons would not think worth cultivation; but when we find a marl below it, then it becomes worth cultivation.

Then you carry the marl to the surface?—Yes.

In speaking of profit, are you not of opinion that land may be cultivatable to a profit by an individual and his family on a very small scale, when it would not answer to take that land and cultivate it on a large scale of from three to five hundred acres in one farm?—In respect to small occupations, there is no doubt they can be better managed than large occupations, for to that small extent the whole family would be employed upon it, and they would bring it into that state of improvement which a larger farmer could not to a great extent of land. In this answer I have confined myself to cottage occupation.

When you say you confine it to cottage occupation, what quantity of acres do you consider to be so applicable?—I should think, perhaps to the extent of about four acres: we find it extremely beneficial on a large estate I have the management of in Lincolnshire, where we always receive the rents regularly, and where the Poor Rates are comparatively very large. We have 100 of those occupations; that is, about fifty tenants with land from two to four acres each, and the other fifty with good gardens only.

From two to four acres each?—Yes.

Are they let to day Labourers?—Yes, they are day Labourers likewise.

When you speak of cottage cultivation, do you refer to the manual cultivation of a Labourer and his family, or by the plough?—Where they have four acres, a portion of it is ploughed.

What resource have they for finding the means of ploughing it?—Generally speaking, we find those cottage holders men of much more respectability than the common day Labourers; they are respected by the farmers in the neighbourhood, who will let them have the use of a horse, on a fair payment for the same.

Those Labourers who you say can profitably cultivate land to the extent of four acres, you conceive are employed to a certain degree by the farmers; what assistance may the farmers expect to receive from such cottagers in the way of labour?—Those cottagers are employed only a small portion of their time on their own land; their principal employment is by the farmers.

You conceive that the most profitable manner in which the cottagers can employ the time is by labouring for the farmers, and employing their extra time upon their own land?—Yes.

Have you found that the farmers have complained that the Labourers are idle, careless, or irregular in attending their work, from having those acres added to their cottages?—I never heard any complaint of that kind.

On the contrary, do you not find by experience that the value of those Labourers having land attached to their cottages is greater than that of those who have not?—Undoubtedly that is the case from what I have seen.

Do you conceive the four acres is sufficient to take them from their daily labour?—No; those occupations vary from two to four acres, as it is desirable to have a difference according to their families and their means of employment.

In what manner do you reckon that those cottagers can most profitably cultivate those four acres on a series of crops?—That will depend entirely upon the nature of the soil; there must be a different system of management according to the nature of the soil.

Do you conceive those cottagers, generally speaking, ought to have a certain quantity of potatoes, a certain quantity of wheat; and what other matter do you conceive it desirable they should cultivate?—We never bind them down to any particular system, conceiving that their own view of advantage will point out what is best.

In cases where you find cottagers having land in this manner, what effect has that upon the Poor Rates?—The Poor Rates are always much less.

You are aware that the persons holding land in that manner have no right to relief from the Poor Rates?—Generally, those occupations are rated in proportion with other lands in the same parish, and we find that where there are tenants of that description, the Poor Rates are a great deal less than where there were none of that description.

In speaking of the quantity of waste land in England, capable of cultivation, you mean to say, that, in your opinion, there is a considerable quantity of waste land in this kingdom capable of cultivation to a profit by the cottagers, upon the system

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system you have just spoken of in Lincolnshire?—Certainly; and not only by cottagers, but by farmers likewise; and I beg leave to state, that where there is an inclosure of commons, a much greater increase of labour is produced, and consequently more benefit to the Poor.

And that has the effect of diminishing the Poor's Rates?—Undoubtedly, because if they can find employment, there is not that excuse for going to the parish for relief.

How do they manure those four acres?—There is generally plenty of manure. There is a great deal of manure made within or about the cottage, and they would be able to get manure very likely from some market town near at hand.

Is that the case in the cottages you referred to in Lincolnshire?—They are able to keep some stock.

How much stock do they keep in the cottages to which you refer?—Probably they will keep two cows, and they keep a pig.

Then they are, in point of fact, small farmers?—We do not call them farmers; they work for the farmers; their small occupations alone would not support them.

Do you believe, that giving a man four acres of land would enable him to keep his family?—Not taking the year through.

Is it not a matter of complaint that there are many men out of employment?—Undoubtedly.

Your plan is only to ameliorate the condition of those in employment?—With respect to those out of employment, there is a great difference between the parishes. I know some parishes where the Labourers are more numerous than they have labour for; in other parishes the Labourers are rather scarce; it depends entirely upon the extent of the population in the respective parishes.

Where are the wages the highest; in the parish where there is the greatest demand for labour, or the others?—I should say where the labour is scarce, the wages were higher.

Do you think that it is of great importance that those small allotments of land should be near the residence of the cottagers?—I think they should not be far off; the nearer the better.

What is the greatest distance at which it would answer?—They would prefer having it close at hand; and it would be always more beneficial and better managed if the land is nearer; they would be very willing to get it as near as they possibly could.

What is the greatest distance at which it would be beneficial for their occupation?—I think they should not have it more than half a mile from their cottages.

A great deal of the waste land existing is more than half a mile from the cottages of Labourers?—At present, undoubtedly.

Do you think it would be beneficial to build cottages and hovels for cows, and to remove the cottagers to those waste lands?—That would depend upon a variety of circumstances. If the ancient cottage was in that state to require a great deal of money to be laid out to put it into a proper state of repair, I should advise it should be taken down, and that a new cottage should be erected upon the piece of ground to be occupied.

What would be the expense of building a cottage and a hovel for cows on Epping Forest, for instance?—I should suppose that the utmost which would be necessary for building a cottage, and necessary out-buildings, would be 100*l*.

How much would it cost reclaiming a hundred acres of land adjoining that cottage?—There would be the fencing of it; and I do not know that there would be a great deal more than that, beyond usual cultivation.

Can you give a rough estimate of the expense?—I could not without going into calculation.

What would the four acres be worth after it was so fenced in?—That would depend on the quality of the soil.

The fencing costs generally from a shilling to eighteen-pence a pole, does it not?—Yes; it would not come to much.

In the counties in which you have known waste lands so cultivated, what has been the expense of building cottages?—I have not been much concerned in building cottages, as in the estates which are under my management there have been already cottages.

Are you not aware that, in most of those districts, the Poor will build cottages for themselves, at a trifling expense?—Those that possess money may do it.

Are you not aware that, on the commons which have been inclosed, there are

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small cottages which have been built by the cottagers, who have appropriated to themselves rights which did not originally belong to them?—I do not think that Labourers in general have money to build cottages with; there are some industrious men who would do that, provided they had the occupation of the land on low terms.

Do you conceive it would be possible to build a comfortable habitable cottage at as low cost as 30 l.?—That depends on the materials; but I have no doubt it may be done.

With what materials must a cottage which cost no more be built?—There are some of the cottages in Norfolk built with clay walls, which would not cost more.

How many chambers have those cottages up stairs?—Generally two.

Does not the thatching alone come to a considerable sum?—No, not a great deal.

How long will those cottages last?—I should think I can trace some cottages on Lord Walsingham's estate, which I have the management of, that have been in existence for forty years.

Have there been repairs from year to year?—Some small annual repair.

Is there a brick footing in them?—Yes, just clear of the ground.

That is included in the 30 l.?—Yes; it does not take many bricks.

You stated that you thought that a cottager who had an allotment of four acres could keep two cows upon it; do you conceive he could do it without having a turn-out on some common?—That would depend entirely on the quality of the soil. I conceive that if the land was of good quality, an acre in pasture, and a half acre to mow, would be sufficient for a cow; consequently three acres would enable them to keep two.

One acre should be laid up for hay every year for supply for the winter food?—Yes.

It must be land, then, that is capable of being sown every other year?—I mean grass land, the natural food.

Have you not known instances of cows having been maintained without any hay at all? have you not seen accounts of a cow being maintained by herbage or vegetables grown on half or even a quarter of an acre of ground?—Yes, I have seen statements of that kind, but I am not aware of such facts.

Do you totally disbelieve such statements?—No, I do not.

Do you disbelieve that a cow may be maintained on half an acre or a quarter of an acre of ground?—I cannot speak with certainty to this question, but I am of opinion that there might be a sufficient quantity of vegetables produced on such a quantity of good land, very highly cultivated, to support one cow.

What quantity of such waste land as you have described, say Epping Forest, or some other common land, would, in your opinion, suffice to maintain a man, his wife and four children, independent of labour for hire?—I never went into a consideration of that, therefore I am at a loss to answer that question.

With your experience of late years, have you not found that the little coopers have been those that have been the earliest ruined, that have gone the soonest to the wall?—With respect to farms of fifty acres and so on, it entirely depends upon the quality of the soil; but a small farmer on good soil, I think, would always do well.

A small farmer on indifferent soil would not do well?—No, they have not done well; I think all small farms should be on land of good quality.

In the reply to the last question, you understood the question to apply to farmers who grow the crops for sale, whereas the question previously proposed applied entirely to a small quantity of land cultivated for the sustenance of the cottager himself; whether of the ordinary quality of land, a certain number of acres, from six to ten, might not be sufficient to maintain a man and his wife and four children?—I never entered into a calculation of that kind, but I thought at the moment, probably, about ten acres; I think, on re-consideration, that that is more than is necessary.

In the word maintenance, do you mean to include not only his sustenance as for as food goes, but that he will be able to buy his family clothes and all the articles requisite, which the land itself would not produce?—Yes, I mean to include every expense the cottager would be subject to, so as to be quite comfortable.

Supposing you were to place a cottager in one of those mud hovels that cost 30 l. on waste land, and give him four acres of land, would it not be necessary that he should find something farther to employ him?—I have stated before, that a cottager occupying four acres of land of course labours for the farmers also.

If you give him ten acres he becomes a farmer?—He becomes able to support his family without any assistance from the farmer.

On the average, a man having four acres could not, you think, maintain himself and his family without being employed during some portion of the year by the farmer?—I think not.

But that a man could, on ten acres, maintain himself and his family without such employment?—Just so.

Could a man take ten acres without some capital?—No, certainly not.

Could he buy his cows without capital?—Certainly not.

Or his plough?—No, certainly not.

When you are asked whether capital is not necessary, do you not think that a man locating on seven or ten acres of land, with a cottage such as that described, with implements of husbandry, he would be able, in the course of time, by his own industry to purchase a cow, and raise that capital without which it would be perfectly incompetent to him to commence business?—I think he should be in possession, at the first taking of this land, of those agricultural instruments, and likewise the stock he should have, or he cannot manage to advantage.

Would it not be possible for the person to begin on a small quantity of land without the stock, and by the profits upon that small quantity of land, eventually procure for himself the stock contemplated?—I think so; that is the reason I say that it is necessary to have gradations of occupation, that they may go from a smaller to a larger. It is not to be supposed that a cottager could, in the first instance, undertake profitably the occupation of ten acres of land, without a sufficient capital.

Do you think that within seven years he might be able to occupy ten acres, without the aid of a man of capital at starting?—Yes, I think he might, by gradation of occupation, if he had a family who assisted him.

That would depend upon the size of his family?—If he had a large family, of course he would not be able to proceed so well.

Then, suppose that he has to begin with a small occupation, and that in the course of seven years he might be enabled to occupy the soil, how is he to maintain himself and his family during those seven years?—He will maintain himself by labour and by the produce of the four acres of land.

You suppose he must be in a situation where there is an abundance of labour to be procured?—Of course upon the supposition that there is labour for him whenever it is required, beyond the time he is occupied on his own land.

If he were to be placed in a poor colony, remote from labour that he could procure, would he be able to maintain himself without having a considerable capital to start with?—No, I think not, if on very poor land.

Suppose a parish were so circumstanced that it had a superabundance of agricultural labour, which it was bound to maintain at a considerable expense out of the Poor's Rates, would it not be a beneficial application of the means of that parish to locate some of that extra population in some place where they could obtain for them some land, in addition to the cottage to be built for them?—The parish would receive the same advantages, whether the Poor had the occupation in their native parish, or in any other parish, because they would be able to support themselves in one place as well as in another.

If they had not an opportunity of being provided with land in their own parish, would it not be beneficial to a parish so circumstanced to provide money to enable them to be so located in another parish, and particularly if they looked to the means which they would have, after a certain period, of reimbursing the parish for the money provided to enable them to commence those operations?—Yes; I think they certainly might do that; but then there is a very material question to be taken into consideration, which is this, the introduction of poor people into a parish to which they do not belong, because you would thereby be bringing the burden upon that parish. Although those cottagers are able to support themselves for a certain time, yet, from misfortunes that may arise to them, they may become subject to call upon the parish in which they then reside for relief: that, I think, is a very important point for consideration, whether that system should be adopted or not.

The point to which the question applied was, the benefit to be received by the parish that had such a redundant population?—No doubt the parish that sent a portion of their Poor out would be benefited by finding employment for them.

Supposing they could find employment for themselves where they were so located in a distant place, if they were to have as much as about four acres of land,

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land, do you think they would become comfortably situated, and that the parish from which they were removed might claim in due time to receive back a portion of the money advanced to enable them to settle themselves?—If they can find employment, then I conceive they would stand in exactly the same situation as if they were remaining in their own parish.

If they could so find employment, and it was expedient that they should be removed from the parish at which they were found, would not that be the best mode of disposing of them?—Undoubtedly.

Supposing they could not find employment at the place to which they were to be removed, if a larger sum were provided for them, by which they would be enabled to cultivate land enough for their maintenance, their clothing, and other necessities, might not the parish from which they were removed expect in due time to be repaid for any such necessary advances?—That would entirely depend upon the success of the man, because in stating the certain quantity of ten acres it was not supposed that they were to be able to make a saving out of that to create a fund to refund to the parish the money they had advanced; therefore they must go to a greater extent of occupation, by degrees, to enable them to save the money.

Do you not think it might be reasonably expected they could by instalments repay such money advanced to them?—If they were successful they might do it by small instalments, but it would be a considerable time, particularly if interest were charged upon it.

Supposing a parish removing such portion of that redundant population, would it not be much benefited by the comfort in which the population would be placed which would remain in the parish?—No doubt it would benefit those who remained, and for this reason, because that portion of the Poor sent into another parish, not becoming liable to the parish from which they were sent, there is of course the greater means of relief to the population remaining in the parish.

The remaining population in the parish from which the others were removed would be able to have more work and better wages?—Undoubtedly.

You have said it might be felt to be a grievance by the parish in which those Labourers were removed, their being removed to such place; if that was to be created a distinct parish, any such objection would be removed?—Only in part; because, although the land upon which these Poor are to be placed is to be made a distinct parish, and consequently to support itself, yet as the land taken for this colony contributed to the Poor Rates of the parish from which it is taken, and the Poor of the said parish not lessened by the establishment of the said colony, the amount that such lands contributed to the Rates will be a total loss to the parish from which it is separated.

If this Pauper colony were made a parish of itself, how would any relief be given to those inhabitants in case of sickness?—There would be no means.

Are you a landed proprietor?—I am not.

You are agent for Lord Walsingham?—I am.

Is there any waste land upon his Lordship's property in Norfolk?—No, not commonable waste land. There are very extensive rabbit warrens.

Has any gentleman, you are receiver or agent for, any waste land?—Not to any great extent, but small portions of waste land.

If it were proposed to you to give you 10*l.* or 20*l.* for every Labourer that would settle upon that waste land from the county of Sussex, should you recommend to your employer to accept of that money?—That would entirely depend upon the number of Labourers already in the parish; if there were not a sufficient number of Labourers in the parish, I should be thankful for more; but if there were a sufficient number of Labourers, I should not do that.

Cannot you get whatever number of Labourers you wish without having to look for them?—Generally speaking there is a sufficiency of Labourers.

Supposing that a house and seven acres of land, without any other capital than implements of husbandry, be provided for a cottager, will he be able, under such circumstances, to maintain his family and repay all expense, including that of building the house, in twelve years, and at the expiration of the twelve years that a rent in proportion to the quality of the land may afterwards be paid, which rent would be clear profit to the owner of the soil, repairs only excepted?—That is on the presumption that no rent is paid until the expiration of the twelve years. Yes, under those circumstances, I think it might.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Tuesday next, Twelve o'Clock.

Die Martis, 19th Aprilis 1831.

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

19 April,
1831.

Order of Adjournment read.

After Discussion;

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Friday next,
Twelve o'Clock.*Die Veneris, 22nd Aprilis 1831.*

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY IN THE CHAIR.

Sir *Morris Ximenes*, Baronet, is called in; and Examined, as follows;

YOU are a magistrate of Berkshire?—I am, and also Wiltshire and Devonshire; but I act but little in Devonshire.

Sir *Morris Ximenes*,
Bart.

Will you have the goodness to state with what parish you are particularly connected?—The parish of Wargrave, in the county of Berks.

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1831.

Are the Rates very oppressive there?—By no means.

To what extent?—About 3s. in the pound. When the parish was surveyed and inclosed, about twelve or fourteen years ago, it was supposed our Rates were on about the value of two-thirds. Now we pay two eighteen-penny rates, making 3s. in the year. I apprehend, from the reduced value of the land, we are very near now to a rack rent; to the rent which was then two-thirds.

What is the acreage of the parish?—I should think about five thousand, but not six thousand acres.

Can you state what is the population?—I am not prepared to state that, but it appears in the Population Return of 1821.

Have you many persons out of work?—From a plan which I took the liberty of proposing, I got all our farmers, about six or seven months ago, the beginning of winter, to agree to give up one acre of land in every hundred into the hands of the overseer of the parish, which he was to have dug by the spade by those persons who wanted work; and the farmer giving up his land was to pay what was supposed it would cost him to plough. I believe it was agreed very low—12s. an acre. This land was given to the overseer to have dug by the spade, for which he paid 2½d. a pole; that amounted, I think, to about 33s.

To whom did he pay that?—The occupiers paid him 12s. an acre for the cultivating it by spade husbandry; he paid to the Poor who went to work 2½d. a pole to dig that land. The amount of digging that land came to about 33s. an acre, about 20s. an acre more than he received from the proprietor or occupier of the land. He took fifty acres, we will say, from the parish to have dug in this way; I believe it was about thirty-five. There would appear against the parish an increase of Parish Rates for that 50*l.*, but that was not at all the case, for those men who were so employed to dig by the spade would have been obliged to be relieved from the Parish Rates without any work at all; therefore we gained the very desirable point of having something to set them to when they came: whenever a man came to ask for work, we could give that; and we stopped the application, and found it do a great deal of good. I do not believe, from having made all the inquiry I could, that if we should pay 20s. an acre more than we received, we had any loss, for we must have given that money in relief, without having any work at all. I made the trial myself on about an acre and a quarter of different descriptions. Some of the Paupers were used only to sawing; they could not dig well: one was an old pensioner, a soldier; and another a good Labourer. The sawyer earned about 1*s.* 4½*d.* a day; he only came from seven in the morning to five in the evening: another sawyer, not accustomed to digging, produced 1*s.* 5½*d.* a day; the old pensioner got 1*s.* 5½*d.* a day; and a young man, accustomed to labour, got 2*s.* 1*d.* a day by digging at 2½*d.* a pole. They began at seven in the morning with the working hours, they rested, and left off at five in the afternoon. Of course, being my own land, I gave them a little remuneration of my own: but this was what they *bona fide* earned.

[The Witness delivers in the Statement, which is read, and is as follows:—]

227. U u 4 LAND

LAND dug for Sir M. X. in the Month of February 1831.

Sir Morris Jameson,
Bart.

N B.—The Men only worked from Seven o'clock in the Morning till Five in the Afternoon.

23 April,
1831.

NAME.	Usual Occupation.	AGE.	Number of Poles per Day.	Price per Pole.	Earned per Day.	Number of Days they worked.	Poles dug.	TOTAL EARNED.
				d.	s. d.		About	s. d.
Bedder - -	Labourer -	About 60	6½	2½	1 4½	5	33	6 10½
Kent - - -	Amold Pensioner -	- -	7	2½	1 5½	4½	33	6 10½
Old Stanbrook and a young boy -	Sawyers -	60	12	2½	2 6	4½	58	10 10
Young Stanbrook -	- ditto -	- -	8	2½	1 8	4½	36	7 6
Austin - -	Labourer -	- -	10½	2½	2 1	3	31½	6 5½

This was in the last February?—Yes; and the land dug extremely bad.

How did you select the land?—We agreed in the parish, each person for every hundred acres, to give an acre to the overseers: we all signed an agreement to do so, to give employment to the Poor.

Then there existed no jealousy between the occupiers as to the land?—Certainly not. When the overseer wanted work, he sent to me to know whether I had any land to be dug.

Did you find any disinclination on the part of the Labourers to be so employed?—By no means. I found among the idle Labourers a little shifting, if I may use that expression; but good Labourers I found desirous of employment.

You did not find a feeling in them, as if they felt almost insulted by application to the labour, as if it were totally useless?—By no means.

What was the surplus expense above the 12s.?—About 1l. an acre.

Did you find any comparative reduction in your Poor's Rates in consequence?—We found no increase. I cannot positively say that there was a reduction, for I have not seen the account; but I feel certain that the sum of money that might have been supposed to be added as the extra money paid for the digging above what we received, we should have been obliged to have given to the Labourer, to have kept him and his family without work.

The produce of this land went to the occupier, of course?—It was returned directly to him.

The parish took no land of their own?—No, they did not.

Is not a great deal of land in Wargrave of a stiff and cold nature?—Very much so.

Did you make any difference in consequence of that?—I had no particular communication with the overseer upon that subject; I do not think he did.

It cost the parish about 20s. beyond the 12s.?—I can state exactly what it cost. I think it cost about 1l. 15s. 3d., and the parish gave us 12s.; we supposed they ought to have given us 14s.

Do you find that the Labourers are in a more satisfied condition in that parish than they were previously?—I may just take the liberty to say, I am afraid there is another circumstance which causes a great deal of confusion in the parish, and that is the drinking beer at the new beer houses; even the children are seen drunk. There are four established and about to be established within one mile of my house. I find that a number of families who have money, some who have children who earn something, are worse off from their husbands drinking at these beer houses than they used; that the women complain that their husbands do not bring their money home, for that it is spent at those beer houses.

Is there the same spirit of dissatisfaction existing among the Poor from the want of work?—I have not seen much spirit of dissatisfaction in our parish; but they prefer the digging to the stone-breaking, which appears more degrading.

Do you know what is the system of roundsmen?—I have heard of it, but we always set our faces against it, as we had great objection to have men we did not like; and men would have to go where they did not like to go.

You do not employ the Poor at breaking stones, merely as an employment?—No; only when we want stones for the roads.

During the late disturbances in Berkshire, was your parish quiet?—Perfectly quiet; we had a very good constabulary force, both horse and foot; we found

them very willing to be sworn in; we were obliged to make a selection, swearing in those we preferred.

You act as chairman of the magistrates in your session?—Yes.

Is the land in your parish chiefly arable or pasture?—Chiefly arable; there may be 500 acres of the latter.

The population in 1821 was 1,409?—I think it is a great deal more now; the number of new houses built, and apparently full, must have extended the population.

Have the cottages generally gardens to them?—Very small. It has been very much the fashion of late, very much against my inclination, to build rows of houses. I have always, when I have built, wished them to have good gardens. I am convinced if there were larger gardens, it would be a great comfort. I always thought the repeal of a very old Act of Parliament, which prevented cottages being built without a certain quantity of land, was to be regretted; it was a very great blessing to the Poor.

By what class of persons have those cottages been built?—By persons on speculation. There is a little sawyer has built a great number. I do not think they answer his purposes; he asks half a crown a week.

Are those cottages exempted from the Rates?—We cannot legally do that; they are all brought into the Rate; but then we have a meeting of the magistrates, according to Act of Parliament, to take so many out of the Rate who we conceive are not able to pay.

Does the parish pay the rents of any of those cottages?—I have always set my face against that; but I believe there are a few underhand, where it is done for large families.

Your experience would not lead you to advocate cottages in lone situations; you would allow sufficient space for a garden, but you would not advocate their being built so far apart as to be in lonely situations?—No, clearly not; two cottages built together are much cheaper and more moral for the people.

Do not you find objections made to rows of houses now?—They are so fond of merrying, they think they will get better provided for by the parish, that they take any thing. I have never heard of any objection to rows of houses.

What is the average rate of wages for an able-bodied Labourer in that parish?—From 9s. to 10s. a week; but they do a great deal by task work, and earn much more.

Do they receive any allowance in addition to those wages?—Oh yes, according to their families.

What sort of allowance do they receive?—There is a sort of calculation; if the loaf of bread costs ten-pence, it is cast up two loaves for a man for a week, and one apiece for each of his family.

Is that by any scheme published by the magistrates?—It is a sort of understanding; we cannot legally do it; but they so understand it, and act upon it.

Is there a decided opinion as to the legality of it?—We are of opinion that they cannot legally do it; but we recommend it because we cannot let the people starve.

You consider it unavoidable?—Certainly; no man with five or six children can live on 9s. or 10s. a week. But there is one thing which I think would greatly benefit the Poor, if provisions could be provided for them at a fair rate: when I

say at a fair rate, I know, to my own knowledge, for thirty or forty years there had been a number of little shopkeepers set up who charge at least one third more than the fair price of provisions, and that the Poor are obliged to go to these shops, and they get short weight and short measure. I have always endeavoured in my parish to have a shop established to distribute provisions at the original cost; I have not been able to do it, but I think an Act of Parliament to that effect would be of the greatest benefit. A man would get for 1s. what he now pays 18d. for; and the agricultural Poor would be all satisfied. If their bacon, their flour, their potatoes, and one or two other articles, the first requisites of life, were obliged to be sold by the overseer of the parish at the prime cost, I am convinced 1s. would go as far as 18d. now. They buy at those little shops, where it is got at second or third hand; they do not pay for it; they are unhappy and miserable; they are obliged to remain dealing at the shop; and the shop ultimately gets no benefit from that class of persons. I have endeavoured, through my own keeper's wife, to sell a few articles; they came readily to buy the article rice; they give it to their children, and they are very much pleased with it. I will mention a circumstance which I think is a very great oppression upon the Poor; it loses their time and lessens their earnings, and therefore, perhaps, it would not be improper to mention it here. A poor man's name, who is drawn for the militia, is obliged to go in some places seven miles to make his appeal; in other places ten, in others

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twelve; very many appeals are on the ground that they are too short, which is a thing quite obvious; and others, that they are lame, with their certificate from a surgeon. At Oakingham there were considerably above 200 appeals, and I think we confirmed every man's appeal, except seven or eight; those 200 men had to come six and seven miles; they lost a whole day's work, say 2s.; perhaps they spent 6d. in coming; and it rained perhaps. I should propose, if any alterations were made, that those persons should make their appeal to their neighbouring Deputy Lieutenants, within two or three miles of their own houses, which might be taken in an afternoon, and the poor man would not lose his day's work, or be put to expense or inconvenience.

Have you had any experience with regard to spade husbandry being more or less productive than husbandry by the plough?—My own was very good; but I did not look at any others.

Was the difference equal to the difference in the cost of cultivation?—I should suppose not; but I am no judge of that; I am not an agriculturist. In my own case it was certainly more productive; but mine was very trifling, only a couple of acres.

The cultivation by spade moves the ground more than by the plough?—If they dig it fairly, it goes a spit deep, which is about ten inches.

Are you acquainted with the management of the parish of White Waltham?—Not particularly.

The Poor's Rates in that parish have been brought down to a very small amount, have they not?—I am not acquainted with the fact, but I understand the management of that parish to be very good.

Have you any pothouse in the parish of Wargrave?—Yes, a very good one, and very well conducted; we contract with the person who keeps it, and the contract is 3s. a week, or under.

What description of persons do you place in it?—Those who are old and decrepit, and children who have no persons to take care of them; and if any persons cannot find houses, which, notwithstanding the number of houses, is sometimes the case, we allow them to come in.

What is the number of inhabitants?—I cannot state that, but they are not numerous.

It is not made the means of preventing persons receiving parish assistance when they are deserving of receiving that assistance?—Certainly not; if families come in who can with their earnings support themselves, we make them pay 1s. a week for lodging there.

You do not threaten persons with large families that you will send them to the workhouse if they are not content with the relief given to them?—By no means. I will not say that that threat has not been used to a bad family, but certainly not generally, by any means.

The administration of the poorhouse is, in your opinion, good?—Yes; I remember in thirty or forty years but one complaint, and I indicted the keeper of the house for it.

Is there labour there?—Yes; that is given to the poorhouse keeper in addition to the sum per head; but there are so few that earn any thing, except by digging in the garden, which is very large, that I believe he has hard work to make it do; and when they go out to work for any persons, they carry a bag with meat and bread, which is quite sufficient for the day.

Is the diet table settled by the magistrates?—No; it is never brought before us as a diet table.

There is no complaint brought before the magistrates?—No, or we should certainly look into it; it is managed by a select committee, much better certainly than it used to be in former years.

Are there many cottages in your parish which have not some land?—No, except in the village; there are a few in the village which have not any land.

What is the comparative comfort of those families who live in the village and have no land, and of those who live away and have land?—I suppose, if they are at day work, they may earn a little more by being nearer to it; but I believe there are very many in the village who pay above 10*l.* a year rent for their cottages.

[The Witness is directed to withdraw.]

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned to Monday next,
Twelve o'clock.

APPENDIX

TO

THE MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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APPENDIX.

No. I.

RULES and REGULATIONS for CULTIVATION of ALLOTMENTS by POOR, in the Parish of *Crayfield*. (Delivered in by the Rev. J. Beard.)

Appendix.

Regulations for Cultivation of Allotments by Poor.

1. THE rent is to be paid yearly, on the 11th of October.
2. No occupier will be suffered to re-let his allotment.
3. No person shall be employed on the land who does not belong to the parish.
4. No occupier will be allowed to plough his land; but he required to cultivate it solely by good husbandry.
5. No occupier who is at work for the parish, or for any employer, will be allowed to work upon his land after six o'clock in the morning, or before six in the evening, without permission from his master.
6. No occupier will be suffered to trespass upon another's allotment.
7. All occupiers will be expected to attend regularly at Divine Service, to conduct themselves with sobriety at all times, and to bring up their families in a decent and orderly manner.
8. Any occupier who may be convicted of thieving, or of any other offence against the laws of his country, will be deprived of his garden.
9. Any dispute arising amongst the cultivators to be referred to twelve of their body; the nomination to be with the Committee.

No. II.

ACCOUNT of CROPPING and PRODUCE of LAND at *Rodbourne, Wilts*, referred to in the Evidence of *Richard Pulten, Esq.*, p. 53.

Cropping and Produce of Land at Rodbourne, Wilts.

THE land let to the Poor produced on an average, in the year 1830, (which was a very favourable season,) as follows, per acre:

WHEAT.	POTATOES.	OATS.	BEANS.
7 $\frac{1}{2}$ Sacks.	78 Sacks.	16 Sacks.	No return, and few sown.

No. III.

LETTER from *T. Partington, Esq.* inclosing a STATEMENT showing the OUTGOINGS and INCOME of Ten Acres of Land cultivated by the Surplus Labourers of the Parish of *Borecote*, from Lady-day 1829 to Lady-day 1830.

Letter from T. Partington, Esq.

MY LORD,

Offham, 30th December 1830.

I FEEL it necessary to apologise to your Grace for not having forwarded the inclosed at an earlier period; but it was not till the beginning of this week that I could have an opportunity of making the necessary inquiries from the parish officer who was acquainted with the detail of the business.

The concern, as you will see, has been by no means advantageous; and the effect of it, in other respects, has been found objectionable, as it led many farmers to employ a less number of Labourers through the winter than they would otherwise have done. They are now arranging a plan among themselves to provide work upon a more enlarged scale on the farms, and which, it is hoped, may be so managed as to leave a very small proportion of the population unemployed.

I should add, that the parish to which I allude labours under considerable disadvantage, the farms being in general small, and many of them occupied by persons residing and occupying farms in other parishes, from whence they are induced to bring many Labourers to carry on the business, to the exclusion of the parishioners, at least to a certain extent.

I have the honour to remain

Your Grace's faithful and obedient Servant,

T. Partington.

Appendix.

Letter from
T. Partington, Esq.

From inquiries made since I returned home, I find that the prices of wheat calculated upon in late adjustments of rent, have been as low as 15*l.* per load. I said in my Examination 167.

It may perhaps not be altogether useless to notice that the average prices of wheat for the five years from 1798 to 1797, (both inclusive), according to the Corn Recorders' Returns, throughout England and Wales, were 14*l.* 14*s.* 9*d.*, and according to the Eton College Audit Books (which is perhaps a fairer criterion for the southern districts), 16*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* These Tables may be found in the Supplement to the *Encyc. Brit.*, vol. 3, p. 329.

London, 5th Jan. 1831.

STATEMENT.

EXPENSE.		£.	s.	d.
Labour in cultivating ten acres of land, including the labour employed in getting up the crops by the surplus Labourers of the parish (the work was mostly done by the day, at from 1 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> to 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per day, or at 4 <i>s.</i> per pole) - - - - -				
		72	7	6
Expense of seed purchased - - - - -				
		5	7	6
Expense of manure, and carriage of ditto - - - - -				
		40	4	-
Sundry other expenses attending the getting in and disposing of the crops - - - - -				
		8	15	10
PRODUCE.		£.	s.	d.
Potatoes, sold at from 1 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> to 1 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> per bushel - - - - -				
		47	12	5
Ditto now in hand, at 1 <i>s.</i> 3 <i>d.</i> - - - - -				
		8	8	6
Other crops (beans) - - - - -				
		41	12	6
Total Produce - - - - -		97	13	5
Loss (besides the rent of the land) - - - - -		29	2	5

In the two preceding years, in which potatoes only were raised, the loss exceeded 60*l.* per annum, exclusive of rent.

No. IV.

Statements of Excess of Population.

STATEMENTS intended to show the Existence of an EXCESS of POPULATION in Great Britain, relatively to the Means of EMPLOYMENT, and relatively to the Means of SUBSISTENCE. (Delivered in by J. Barton, Esquire.)

TABLE I.

POPULATION of England and Wales since the Beginning of the last Century, deduced by Mr. Rickman from the BIRTHS only.

YEARS.	BIRTHS.	Increase.	Decrease.
1700 - -	5,475,000	—	235,000
1710 - -	5,240,000		
1720 - -	5,555,000	325,000	—
1730 - -	5,796,000	231,000	—
1740 - -	6,064,000	268,000	—
1750 - -	6,457,000	403,000	—
1760 - -	6,736,000	269,000	—
1770 - -	7,428,000	692,000	—
1780 - -	7,953,000	525,000	—
1790 - -	8,675,000	722,000	—
1801 - -	9,168,000	493,000	—
1811 - -	10,428,000	1,260,000	—
1821 - -	12,085,000	1,657,000	—

Increase of Population in 50 years, from 1700 to 1750 - 993,000
 ————— in 50 years, from 1770 to 1821 - 4,657,000

TABLE 2.

INCREASE of POPULATION since the Beginning of the last Century, deduced from a Comparison of the BIRTHS with the DEATHS.

Appendix.

Statements of Ex-
cess of Population.

YEARS.	BIRTHS.	DEATHS.	Proportion.
1700 - - - - -	157,397	137,395	1,145 to 1,000
1710 - - - - -	143,735	145,146	990 to 1,000
1720 - - - - -	166,696	165,096	998 to 1,000
1730 - - - - -	166,514	184,579	912 to 1,000
1740 - - - - -	174,837	172,731	1,009 to 1,000
1750 - - - - -	185,816	160,090	1,161 to 1,000
1760 - - - - -	194,914	161,004	1,198 to 1,000
1770 - - - - -	213,457	180,396	1,183 to 1,000
1780 - - - - -	228,961	198,348	1,151 to 1,000
1781-1785 - - -	230,311	191,317	1,202 to 1,000
1786-1790 - - -	246,116	185,635	1,324 to 1,000
1791-1795 - - -	260,143	197,498	1,318 to 1,000
1796-1800 - - -	269,468	193,476	1,391 to 1,000
1801-1805 - - -	276,353	194,093	1,424 to 1,000
1806-1810 - - -	297,428	195,944	1,518 to 1,000
1811-1815 - - -	316,096	193,846	1,635 to 1,000
1816-1820 - - -	334,017	208,133	1,605 to 1,000

It will be seen from these Statements that our population has been increasing since the beginning of the present century in a ratio greatly accelerated.

The following Table will show that the same law prevails in the agricultural districts taken separately.

TABLE 3.

INCREASE of POPULATION in the Ten Agricultural Counties of Bedford, Berks, Buckingham, Cambridge, Essex, Hertford, Huntingdon, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Sussex, deduced from the BIRTHS only.

YEARS.	BIRTHS.	AVERAGE OF FIVE YEARS.	BIRTHS.
1700 - - -	285,501	1761-1785 - -	353,316
1710 - - -	253,343	1786-1790 - -	38,894
1720 - - -	265,685	1791-1795 - -	40,014
1730 - - -	283,270	1796-1800 - -	40,689
1740 - - -	29,223	1801-1805 - -	44,679
1750 - - -	30,705	1806-1810 - -	47,339
1760 - - -	31,823		
1770 - - -	35,654		
1780 - - -	36,006		

TABLE 4.

INCREASE of POPULATION as ascertained by actual Enumeration in the Ten Counties most exclusively agricultural.

COUNTIES.	POPULATION.		Increase per Cent.
	1811.	1821.	
Bedford - - - - -	79,800	85,400	18
Berks - - - - -	122,300	134,700	10
Bucks - - - - -	191,600	195,800	13
Cambridge - - - -	104,500	124,400	19
Essex - - - - -	260,900	295,900	13
Hertford - - - - -	115,400	125,400	15
Huntingdon - - - -	43,700	49,800	14
Norfolk - - - - -	301,800	351,300	16
Suffolk - - - - -	249,000	276,000	14
Sussex - - - - -	196,500	237,700	21
TOTAL - - - - -	1,582,200	1,813,800	Average, 15
		1,582,200	
Increase in Ten Years - - - -		231,600	

The increase of population in these ten counties, during the fifteen years from 1813 to 1828, may therefore be safely affirmed to exceed 360,000 persons. On the other hand, 227.

N X 4

Appendix.

Statements of Excess of Population.

little or no increase of tillage seems to have taken place during this period. I have seen considerable tracts of land which were under the plough in 1815, since planted, and a still greater extent laid down in permanent pasture; and even those fields which continue in tillage are certainly less carefully and expensively cultivated than formerly. On the whole, there seems reason to think, that the demand for agricultural labour has not increased in the last fifteen years: if so, it seems to follow as a necessary consequence, that the whole of the above-mentioned increase of 360,000 persons is in excess relatively to the means of employment, and their maintenance a dead loss to the community. Even this appears a trifling consideration in comparison of the extent of suffering entailed by the same cause on the whole body of agricultural labourers. This suffering cannot be alleviated by any rise of money wages, so long as the number of hands continues to bear the same proportion as at present to the supply of food; for a rise of money wages would immediately increase in the same proportion the demand for food and other necessities, and raise their price. The condition of the Poor is therefore ultimately determined by the proportion between the increase of food and the increase of population.

The inhabitants of Great Britain were found, by enumeration, to have increased in the ten years, from 1811 to 1821, 1,794,848 persons. Therefore the increase in sixteen years, from 1815 to 1831, may be estimated at three millions.

It is well known that in the year 1816 a failure of the harvest took place, which caused a very severe scarcity. If I am right in supposing that little or no increase of cultivation has taken place since that time, while our population has increased during the same period by three millions of persons, it seems to follow, that in the event of a similar failure of the harvest now occurring, we must look for an extent of distress and privation greater than has been witnessed by any living person.

It is further to be observed, that at the harvest of 1816, an unusually large stock of corn was held over from the abundance of former years. This stock was estimated by Mr. Jacob at no less than 6,150,000 quarters.—(Second Report, p. 35.) He adds, that "this accumulated store providentially prevented a dreadful scarcity, if not a famine, in the greater part of 1817." But it is evident that we cannot calculate on a similar resource in the event of another failure of the crops.

Mr. Jacob further observes, that "if a great portion of our necessary supply should be wanted from foreign countries, there is no probability that it could be furnished without such an advance of price as would be enormously heavy. We must look to our own supply, if not quite exclusively, at least chiefly. It is on the assiduity and skill and economy in cultivation of our own agricultural fellow subjects that we must depend, for all other dependence would fail us in the day of scarcity, whenever that day shall arrive." p. 40.

In fact, when an apprehension of famine exists, the Governments of those countries from which we draw our principal supplies of food are induced by humanity, or compelled by fear of popular tumult, to lay a prohibition on export. And the probability of such measures yearly increases, because an increase of population like that which we experience is taking place over all the Continent of Europe.

It seems to me, therefore, that nothing can save us from famine or civil war but an equalization between the amount of our population and the means of subsistence. Nor do I see any possibility of materially increasing our annual growth of corn. Nine tenths of the land called waste is already employed in supplying manure to the better soils in the neighbourhood. If these wastes were ploughed, the impoverishment of the neighbouring lands would more than compensate for the corn raised on the newly-cultivated ground; and the remaining tenth is so sterile, that the annual growth would be less than the consumption of the men and horses employed on it; so that the attempt at cultivation would lessen, instead of increasing, our surplus produce. I am therefore compelled to conclude, that emigration is our only resource for guarding against the evils before named.

No. V.

Comparative Increase of Population under the Old and New System.

COMPARATIVE INCREASE OF POPULATION under the OLD and NEW SYSTEM of MANAGEMENT of the Poor in the Parish of Cockham. (Delivered in by the Rev. Thos. Wastley.)

ANSWER, communicated by the Rev. Thos. Wastley, to the Question proposed to him in Page 186 of the Evidence; viz.—"Have you found, since you have adopted this system, that the population has not increased with the same rapidity as it did under the former systems?"

I find the Population has not increased with the same rapidity since the establishment of a Select Vestry in this parish as it did under the former systems. In order to ascertain this fact, I have examined the Register of Baptisms, and have taken three several periods of nine years each. The first period of nine years is that during which the new system has been adopted. The other two comprise the eighteen years immediately antecedent to it. Below I give the numbers in their order:—

553. 706. 676.

It appears, therefore, that the increase of baptisms in the nine years immediately before the establishment of the new system, compared with the nine years immediately antecedent to it, was 113. In the last nine years there has been a decrease of 30, compared, in like manner, with the nine years immediately antecedent to it.

Cockham, 21st March 1831.

Thos. Wastley.

(Delayed is to the Committee for the Lord Jeffcoat who stated that he believed the information to be correct.)

[illegible]

Appendix.

No. VII.

Poor Tax collected
in the Parish of
Shipley.

POOR TAX collected in the Parish of Shipley in the County of Sussex, in each Year
from 1819 to 1829.

	£.	s.	d.
In the Year 1819 it was 18 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,965	10	6
In the Year 1820 it was 18 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,969	13	6
In the Year 1821 it was 18 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,399	8	9
In the Year 1822 it was 18 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,400	9	9
In the Year 1823 it was 19 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,551	8	5½
In the Year 1824 it was 20 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,497	1	5½
In the Year 1825 it was 16 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,157	15	7
In the Year 1826 it was 21 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,832	11	4½
In the Year 1827 it was 18 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,427	9	9
In the Year 1828 it was 21 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	2,845	14	4½
In the Year 1829 it was 24 Shillings to the Pound.—Collected	3,823	4	6

Rich^d Hallowsay, Overseer.

No. VIII.

Expenditure for the
Parish of Byfield.

EXPENDITURE for the Parish of Byfield, Northamptonshire, for One Year, from the
Week ending 28th March 1829 to the Week ending 20th March 1830. (Delivered
in by the Rev. Chas. Wetherall.)

	£.	s.	d.
Widows	125	13	—
Widows with families	94	5	6
Children	47	14	6
Single women	28	19	6
Widowers	34	10	6
Old married men with families	17	—	—
Old married men	13	9	—
Boys	8	7	—
Single impotent men	6	10	—
Sick list	80	—	8
Bastards	27	15	6
Casual relief	41	7	11
Widowers with families	5	46	—
Nurses	15	13	6
Head money	10	18	—
Employment	243	3	—
Salaries	25	10	—
County Rate	17	17	6
Bills	43	14	7½
Incidental Expenses	54	18	8
TOTAL	943	3	4½

1829.

March 28.	Balance of last year	63	8	6
	Rents of Parish Houses	4	3	—
	Fathers of base-born children	22	—	4
		89	11	10
	Received from seven levies, at 125 £ 15 s. 11 d. each	880	11	8½
		970	3	6½
	Disbursements	949	15	5½
	£.	20	8	—½

No. X.

Appendix.
Regulations for the
Management of the
Poor of Hatfield.

REGULATIONS for the MANAGEMENT of the POOR of the Parish of *Hatfield*, established in the Year 1830. (Delivered in by the Rev. F. J. Faithful.)

A SELECT VESTRY shall be annually appointed, agreeably to the provisions of the Act of 59 Geo. 3. c. 14. Their duties shall be as follows:—

They shall meet at the Workhouse, or in the Church, once in every fortnight.

At their meetings, they shall consider all cases brought before them, and order such relief as they may deem requisite; being, however, guided by the regulations hereafter laid down. They shall further consider and determine upon all matters relating to the parish, as far as the provisions of the 59 Geo. 3. c. 14. will permit.

A Vestry Clerk shall be appointed, at a salary of 15*l.* per annum, with the following duties:—To attend all Vestries,—to enter all minutes of proceedings into the Vestry Book, —to prepare all Rates, Summonses, Examinations, &c. for the use of the parish.

When any particular parochial business is to be transacted, the Vestry Clerk shall send a Notice to all the Members of the Select Vestry.

A medical man shall be appointed, at a salary of 55*l.* per annum, who shall attend all the Poor within the parish, and within four miles of the parish church, and furnish them with medicines; except cases of accident and women in labour.

A permanent Overseer shall be appointed, at a salary of 50*l.* per annum, with board and lodging for himself and family. The sole distribution of relief under the orders of the Select Vestry shall be placed in his hands. He shall also be Governor of the Workhouse. He shall perform all the duties of the annual Overseers, with the exception of the collection of the Rates, which shall be left in their hands. He shall, with the same exception, discharge all the duties of Steward.

The Rates shall be called in Church on the first Sunday after a quarter-day.

Administration of Relief to the Poor.

No pension or permanent allowance shall be granted henceforth to any person out of the Workhouse.

All persons who shall have been established as pensioners before the commencement of this system shall attend at the first meetings of the Select Vestry next after Michaelmas and Lady Days.

All pensioners who shall not attend, or who shall not give a reasonable excuse for non-attendance, shall forfeit their pension.

The Workhouse shall be made sufficient to receive all persons whom the Select Vestry shall deem fit objects for admission.

No relief shall be given to any person on account of the number of his or her family, except by the admission of one or more of the children, as may seem fit to the Select Vestry, into the Workhouse.

No relief shall be granted to any person residing beyond the limits of the attendance of the Parish Apothecary, who shall not bring or send a certificate of his or her illness, signed by the Churchwarden or Overseer of the place where he or she resides, or by a respectable medical man in this neighbourhood.

All relief shall be given in provisions or necessities, except by especial order of the Select Vestry, when the reason of their order shall be entered in their Minutes.

Relief out of the Workhouse shall be given only in cases of sickness and infirmity; with the following exceptions:—

When the child of a parishioner has been placed in service, out of the parish, and is approved of by his master, he may be clothed at the expense of the parish, in such manner as the Select Vestry may deem fit.

Any sum not exceeding five shillings in provisions or necessities may be given to women in their confinement, in lieu of providing a midwife, when the Select Vestry may deem it necessary.

Compensation, at the discretion of the Select Vestry, may be made to persons attending others in sickness.

The expenses of funerals may be defrayed by the parish.

Widows or families may, at the discretion of the Select Vestry, receive relief out of the Workhouse for one month after the death of the master of the family, but no longer.

Every case of application for relief, whether granted or refused, shall be entered into the Vestry Book, with the cause of such application.

A list shall be made out annually of all persons who have received parish relief, stating their residence, and the amount which they have each of them received; and copies shall be affixed to the church doors in large and legible characters, on the Sunday immediately after the passing of the annual accounts.

The family of a person sent to goal for any crime or misdemeanor, or under suspicion of the same, shall not be relieved except by admission into the Workhouse.

Relief

Appendix.

Regulations for the
Management of the
Poor of Hatfield.

No person absenting himself from the Workhouse beyond the time for which leave is given to him, or sleeping out without permission, shall be again admitted until the next Vestry, or by order of a magistrate.

No beer or spirituous liquors shall be brought into the House without the approbation of the Governor of the Workhouse.

All men and boys capable of labour shall be employed on the parish account, every day, in such work as may be directed by the Governor of the House. The hours of labour shall be from six o'clock to six from Lady-day to Michaelmas, and from seven o'clock to five from Michaelmas to Lady-day.

They shall receive s.d. in the shilling on the amount which they have earned.

The women shall do all the work of the House; and such as are placed in offices of trust shall be allowed a sum not exceeding 6d. per week, at the discretion of the Governor.

The children shall be employed in such work as they may be capable of performing.

The Governor of the House shall pay into the Saving Bank the sum of 4d. weekly for each of the children employed in the silk work, or other work profitable to the parish, to be applied as may hereafter be directed by the parish. The children employed in that way may be further allowed any sum not exceeding 3d. per week, at the discretion of the Governor of the House.

No person neglecting the work or duty which he is appointed to perform shall receive the usual allowance in money.

Whenever any silk-winding shall be carried on in the shed belonging to the parish, rented by Mr. Wooliam, all children capable of work shall be employed on it.

The children shall be taught to read and write by the best schoolmistresses that can be found amongst the Paupers of the House.

The men and women shall be punished for any minor offence, by reducing them to the second or third class of diet, and depriving them of every indulgence which is allowed to others; such punishment being always reported at the next meeting of the Vestry.

All cases of greater offence shall be brought before the Select Vestry.

These regulations shall be read to every person when admitted as an inmate of the Workhouse.

General Relief.

A House shall be kept for the accommodation of such vagrants as may need parish assistance; they shall be lodged and fed, but no money given to them.

Accounts.

The accounts shall be kept according to the Forms annexed. (D. *infra* pages 364, 365.)

The permanent Overseer shall provide the books and papers necessary for the purpose, at the expense of the parish.

The quarterly account shall be invariably audited, and vouchers examined, at the next Vestry after the quarter-day, by a Committee appointed for the purpose. They shall be entered in the Vestry Book.

The yearly accounts shall be submitted to the General Vestry, as by law directed.

Steward's Rate.

The Rate necessary for the repair of the roads shall be placed at the disposition of the permanent Overseer. The whole of it shall be levied in money.

A cart and two horses, and also one for the use of the permanent Overseer, shall be provided, and the keep of the horses paid out of the Steward's Rate.

The remainder of it shall be expended, as much as possible, in labour. It shall not be charged with any labour that is not strictly necessary for the repair of the roads.

It shall be lawful for the permanent Overseer to employ the Paupers in the House upon the roads, at a rate not exceeding the price of their maintenance, and the s.d. in the shilling allowed to them upon their earnings.

No person under fifty years of age, unless labouring under some infirmity, shall be employed otherwise than by task work upon the road.

On the application of a parishioner, the permanent Overseer shall furnish a horse and cart for the conveyance of prisoners to gaol.

Any work that may be done by the cart and horses for the parish, otherwise than upon the roads, shall be charged to the parish, and carried to the credit of the Steward's account.

An account of the expenditure, specifying the weekly work, and the place where it has been done, shall be kept according to the annexed Form (E. *infra* page 366), and when passed shall be entered in the Vestry Book.

None of the above resolutions shall be repealed, altered, or amended without notice of an intention to that effect being given at the previous meeting of the Select Vestry, and in church on the Sunday before their next meeting.

FORM 443—LABOUR BOOK (Revised to fit Page 207)

THE ADVERTER: a mixture of English who cannot fit into a tiny

Figure 1

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Days of the Week.	Men, for Stocking.	Women, for Stocking.	Children, for Stocking.	Men, for Drove.	Women, for Drove.	Children, for Drove.	Men, for Ropes.	Women, for Ropes.	Children, for Ropes.	Men.		Women.	
										for Drove.	for Ropes.	for Drove.	for Ropes.
Monday.	At Work. 1 of 10 of horses and 2 of 10 of calves in stable with those with day, the third day last, driver. Those in house, with principles.	1 of 10 of horses and 2 of 10 of calves in stable with those with day, the third day last, driver. Those in house, with principles.	At Work principles.	At Work and calves.	At Work and calves.	At Work and calves.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.
Tuesday.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	For 10 of ropes, with principles and other vegetables.	For 10 of ropes, with principles and other vegetables.	For 10 of ropes, with principles and other vegetables.				
Wednesday.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.				
Thursday.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	For 10 of ropes, with principles and other vegetables.	For 10 of ropes, with principles and other vegetables.	For 10 of ropes, with principles and other vegetables.				
Friday.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.	For 10 of ropes.				
Saturday.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.				
Sunday.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.	At Work.				

At 10.—Driver, representing working and cleaning the house, with those who are very old and infirm, are allowed 10—1000 a year, and women half a year. The other persons have a year of 1000 less per year.

Appendix.

Regulations for the
Management of the
Poor of Haverhill.

[illegible]

FORM (B)—ACCOUNTS (Revised to 20 Page 9/10)

General Quarterly Account of the Funds of Diocesan Hospitals, from to

Period ended on a Festival of Three Days of each Year				Wages	to d	Salaries	to d	Other Expenditure	to d	Income from Donations	to d	Income from Other Sources	to d	Total Expenditure	to d
Name of the Hospital															
Name of the Hospital	Total of each Year	Salaries and Wages	Expenditure												
OFFICERS' NAMES	d. s. d.	d. s. d.	d. s. d.												
Other Sources of Income				Benevolent Donations											

TOTAL ACCOUNTS.

	Wages	Salaries	Other Expenditure	Income from Donations	Income from Other Sources	Total Expenditure
First Quarter -	d. s. d.	d. s. d.	d. s. d.	d. s. d.	d. s. d.	d. s. d.
Second Quarter -						
Third Quarter -						
Fourth Quarter -						
Total -						

1000

[illegible]

No. XII.

ACCOUNTS of the PRICES of PROVISIONS and NECESSARIES at CHELSEA and GREENWICH HOSPITALS, from 1795 to 1830, inclusive.

Appendix.

Prices of Provisions
at Chelsea Hospital.

I.—ACCOUNT of the PRICES of PROVISIONS and NECESSARIES at CHELSEA HOSPITAL.

	The whole Station contracted for at per Head per Week, consisting of Bread, Cheese, Butter, Beef, and Mutton, Salt and Outmeal.	BEER.	CANDLES.	COALS.
		Per Barrel.	Per Dozen lbs.	Per Chaldron.
1795	The precise rate of the charge for the ration cannot be ascertained for this period.			
6				
7				
8				
9	Cannot be ascertained.	s. d.	Contracted for at	Supplied by commission.
1800		— 8 ½	3 d. per dozen	
1		16 —	lbs. below the	
2		14 —	market price.	
3	— 11	13 6	{ 9 — per dozen lbs. }	57/—57/6 and 58/.
4		15 —		
5		15 —		
6		17 6		
7	— 11 ½	17 —	Contracted for at	57/6—58/3 and 57/6.
8		16 —	4 d. per dozen	
9		16 —	lbs. below the	
1810		16 —	market price.	
11	1 — ½	14 6	{ 7 11 per dozen lbs. }	38/10 and 43/4.
12		14 6		
13		15 —		
14		13 —		
15	— 10 ¾	11 6	Contracted for at	40/6 and 41/.
16		10 6	4 d. per dozen	
17		10 6	lbs. below the	
18		10 6	market price.	
19	— 11 ½	11 6	{ 7 11 per dozen lbs. }	38/10 and 43/4.
20		8 6		
21		8 6		
22		8 6		
23	— 6 ½	7 10	Contracted for at	40/6 and 41/.
24		8 —	4 d. per dozen	
25		7 9	lbs. below the	
26		7 3	market price.	
27	— 9 ½	6 10	{ 7 11 per dozen lbs. }	38/10 and 43/4.
28		7 —		
29		7 —		
30		7 —		
1830	— 7 ½	39s. Forster.	5 7	38/.

Remarks.—From the year 1800 to 1806, when bread extended 9½ d. the quarter loaf, the difference was allowed according to the scale. From the year 1806 to 1815, the contractor was allowed the additional duty on salt.

Note.—To the year 1804 the allowance to each prisoner was as follows: viz. 18 oz. of beef or mutton five days in the week; ½ lb. of cheese every day, and on Wednesdays and Fridays an extra ½ lb.; and 3 oz. of butter, and a loaf of bread, daily, weighing 1 lb. The present allowance is 13 oz. of beef or mutton, ½ lb. of cheese, and 1 loaf of bread weighing 1 lb., every day, and 3 oz. of butter per week.

Royal Hospital, Chelsea,
27th January 1831.

Rich^d Neave,
Secretary and Registrar.

XII.—ACCOUNTS of the Prices of Provisions and Necessaries at

2.—ACCOUNT of the PRICES of PROVISIONS

		1795.	1796.	1797.	1798.	1799.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
PROVISIONS.	Flour - - - per sack	2 10 -	2 10 3½	2 3 6½	2 5 8½	2 17 4½
	Bread - - - per lb.	- - 2½ 11	- - 2½ 11	- - 1½ 11	- - 1½ 11	- - 2½ 11
	Meat - - - per cwt.	8 2 8	8 8 9½	9 15 -	9 15 -	9 15 6
	Pean - - - per bushel (See 1835)	- 9 9½	- 7 4½	- 5 4½	- 5 7 -	- 7 10 -
	Outmeal - - per bushel (See 1833)	- 6 - ½	- 7 -	- 7 -	- 7 -	- 7 -
	Salt - - - per bushel	- 5 8	- 7 -	- 7 -	- 10 6½	- 14 -
	Butter - - - per lb.	- - 8½	- - 8½	- - 9 -	- - 8½	- - 9½
	Cheese - - - per lb.	- - 5½	- - 5½	- - 5½	- - 5½	- - 5½
	Malt - - - per quarter	2 7 8½	2 4 6½	1 18 -	2 - 11½	2 10 1½
	Hops, per cwt.	4 4 -	5 3 5	5 3 5	10 10 -	13 15 8
	Beer - - - per barrel	- 10 4½	- 9 9	- 8 11	- 9 9½	- 11 5
NECESSARIES.	Suits of clothes - - -	2 - 1½	1 19 9½	1 19 9½	1 19 9½	1 19 9½
	Stockings - - - per pair	- 1 6	- 1 6	- 1 6	- 1 6	- 1 6
	Linon for shirts, 7ths - per yard	- - 11½	- - 11½	- - 11½	- - 11½	- 1 3
	Hats - - - each	- 2 6	- 2 6	- 2 6	- 2 5	- 2 6
	Shoes - - - per pair	- 4 -	- 3 10	- 3 10	- 3 10	- 3 10
	Suits of Bedding, (viz. Bed, Bolster, Pillow, three Blankets, one Coverlet) -	2 8 -	2 8 -	2 8 -	2 8 -	2 8 -
	Sea coal - - - per chaldron	1 19 9	1 18 -	1 17 8	1 18 5½	2 6 4
	Candles - - - per doz. lbs.	- 9 1½	- 10 1½	- 9 7½	- 9 - ½	- 9 6½
	Maps - - - each	- 1 3	- 1 3	- 1 3	- 1 3	- 1 3
		1808.	1809.	1810.	1811.	1812.
		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
PROVISIONS.	Flour - - - per sack	3 9 1½	4 4 4½	4 10 6½	4 6 7	5 7 7½
	Bread - - - per lb.	- - 2½ 11	- - 3½ 11	- - 3½ 11	- - 3½ 11	- - 3½ 11
	Meat - - - per cwt.	3 3 -	3 8 3	3 15 -	3 14 -	3 17 -
	Pean - - - per bushel	- 11 8½	- 14 8½	- 9 4½	- 9 5½	- 12 8½
	Outmeal - - per bushel	- 11 8½	- 11 9	- 11 7½	- 11 6	- 12 2
	Salt - - - per bushel	- 19 9	- 19 9	- 19 9	- 19 9	- 19 9
	Butter - - - per lb.	- 1 - ½	- 1 1	- 1 1½	- 1 1½	- 1 3½
	Cheese - - - per lb.	- - 7½	- - 8	- - 8	- - 8½	- - 8½
	Malt - - - per quarter	3 16 1½	4 1 11½	4 5 1½	3 8 5½	4 1 10
	Hops, per cwt.	4 8 -	6 10 -	7 3 -	6 10 -	No Supply.
	Beer - - - per barrel	- 16 5½	- 17 -	- 17 10	- 16 3½	1 - 9½
NECESSARIES.	Suits of clothes - - -	2 9 3½	2 2 1½	2 9 - ½	2 3 1½	2 4 1½
	Stockings - - - per pair	- 2 2	- 2 2	- 2 2	- 2 2	- 2 6
	Linon for shirts, 7ths - per yard	- 1 4½	- 1 4½	- 1 4½	- 1 4½	- 1 4½
	Hats - - - each	- 3 3	- 3 3	- 3 3	- 3 3	- 3 -
	Shoes - - - per pair	- 5 -	- 5 6	- 5 6	- 4 11	- 4 11
	Suits of Bedding, (viz. Bed, Bolster, Pillow, three Blankets, one Coverlet) -	2 15 1	2 16 4	2 16 4	2 16 4	2 16 4
	Sea coal - - - per chaldron	2 15 9½	3 - 9½	3 - 8	3 1 6	2 16 1
	Candles - - - per doz. lbs.	- 13 4½	- 14 7½	- 11 9½	- 10 10½	- 12 6
	Maps - - - each	- 1 5	- 1 5	- 1 5	- 1 5	- 1 5

Clothes and Greenwich Hospitals, from 1795 to 1890—continued.

2d NEEDED AT GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

1800.	1801.	1802.	1803.	1804.	1805.	1806.	1807.
£. s. d. 4 13 3½ - 3 11 11½ 3 3 9 - 12 8½ - 17 - - 14 - - 11 - - 6½ 4 4 1½ 4 7 1½ 17 5 - 1 - 4½	£. s. d. 3 5 10 - 2 11 11½ 3 3 6 - 11 - - 18 6½ - 14 - - 1 - - 7½ 3 5 4½ 4 8 7 4 16 8½ - 17 3	£. s. d. 4 14 10½ - 2 11 11½ 3 4 6 - 16 10½ - 9 5½ - 14 - - 11 - - 7½ 4 15 8½ No Supply. 4 16 8½ - 11 10½	£. s. d. 4 10 1½ - 2 11 11½ 3 3 - - 7 3½ - 9 1½ - 14 - - 11 - - 7½ 4 16 11½ 6 4 3 6 4 3 - 13 -	£. s. d. 4 17 10 - 2 11 11½ 3 2 9 - 6 11½ - 9 8½ - 14 - - 1 - - 7½ 3 8 - No Supply. No Supply. - 13 11	£. s. d. 3 18 3½ - 2 11 11½ 3 1 8 - 7 8½ - 12 - - 19 1½ - 11½ - 7½ 4 5 7 No Supply. No Supply. - 17 9½	£. s. d. 3 9 - - 2 11 11½ 3 1 3 - 8 10 - 10 1½ - 19 9 - 11½ - 7 3 14 9 5 6 - 5 11 - - 16 8½	£. s. d. 3 1 10½ - 2 11 11½ 3 3 - - 14 6½ - 9 3½ - 19 9 - 1 - - 7½ 3 12 - 5 16 - 5 6 - - 15 5
1 10 - - 1 8 - 1 3½ - 2 6 - 5 8 8 8 - 8 11 7 - 11 5½ - 1 3	1 10 3 - 1 8 - 1 3½ - 2 6 - 5 - 8 8 - 8 5 4 - 10 7½ - 1 3	9 1 3½ - 1 6 - 1 4½ - 2 6 - 5 - 8 8 - 2 4 9½ - 10 3½ - 1 5	2 1 1½ - 1 6 - 1 4½ - 2 6 - 3 9 9 14 9 2 10 5½ - 11 - - 1 5	2 1 7½ - 1 6 - 1 4½ - 2 6 - 3 9 2 15 1 2 11 11½ - 11 3½ - 1 5	2 2 11½ - 2 2 - 1 4½ - 3 3 - 5 3 2 15 1 2 11 8½ - 10 8½ - 1 5	2 2 11½ - 2 2 - 1 4½ - 3 3 - 5 9 2 15 1 2 13 4 - 10 6½ - 1 5	2 2 8½ - 2 2 - 1 4½ - 3 3 - 5 - 2 15 1 2 14 - - 9 9½ - 1 5
1818.	1814.	1815.	1816.	1817.	1818.	1819.	1820.
£. s. d. 4 15 10 - 3 11 11½ 4 3 3 - 12 8½ - 12 2 - 10 9 - 1 3 - 8½ 4 10 7 10 6 - 15 - 1 1 10½	£. s. d. 3 7 5½ - 2 11 11½ 4 13 4½ - 9 4 - 10 3 - 18 9 - 1 2 - 8½ 4 10 8½ 8 10 - 9 8 - - 17 3½	£. s. d. 3 - - - 2 11 11½ 3 9 7½ - 6 7½ - 9 9 - 1 8 - 8 3 9 6 9 2 - 9 15 - - 15 4½	£. s. d. 3 18 9½ - 2 11 11½ 2 15 6 - 7 - - 11 3 - 19 9 - 8½ - 5½ 3 9 5½ 12 5 - 15 15 - - 15 8	£. s. d. 4 8 5 - 3 11 11½ 2 11 4 - 8 6 - 13 3 - 19 9 - 8½ - 5½ 4 6 9½ 11 - 13 4 - 1 - 7	£. s. d. 3 6 9½ - 2 11 11½ 2 17 3 - 9 3½ - 13 5½ - 19 9 - 11 - 6 4 1 8½ 7 2 - 8 8 - - 19 11½	£. s. d. 2 17 9½ - 2 11 11½ 3 4 3 - 7 8 - 19 9 - 19 9 - 11 - 8 3 12 11½ 4 - 4 12 - - 15 3½	£. s. d. 2 15 1 - 2 11 11½ 3 10 4½ - 7 5½ - 13 4½ - 19 9 - 7 - 7 3 8 8½ 3 15 - 4 - - 13 10½
2 4 1½ - 2 6 - 1 4½ - 3 - - 4 8½ 2 16 4 2 16 7 - 14 1½ - 1 6½	2 5 9½ - 2 6 - 1 4 - 3 - - 4 8 2 16 4 3 8 8½ - 14 6 - 2 5	2 7 10 - 3 3 - 1 4 - 3 - - 4 7 3 7 7½ 2 16 7 - 11 7½ - 2 6	2 6 3½ - 3 3 - 1 4 - 3 - - 4 7 3 7 1 2 9 6 - 9 3 - 2 6	2 5 11½ - 9 9 - 1 4 - 3 - - 3 10 2 19 10½ 2 6 7 - 9 9½ - 2 6	2 1 - - 9 10 - 1 4 - 3 - - 3 10 2 19 10½ 2 8 6 - 11 5½ - 2 6	2 2 7½ - 2 11 - 1 4 - 3 - - 4 9½ 2 19 10½ 2 6 8 - 8 6½ - 2 6	2 3 3½ - 2 9½ - 1 4 - 3 - - 4 4½ 2 19 10½ 2 5 9 - 8 2½ - 1 10½

(continued)

XII.—Accounts of the Prices of Provisions and Necessaries at

2.—Account of the Prices of Provisions and

		1821.	1822.	1823.	1824.	1825.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
PROVISIONS.	Flour - - - per sack -	2 5 3½	1 17 9½	2 1 11½	2 7 6	2 12 4½
	Bread - - - per lb. -	- - 14½d	- - 14½d	- - 12½d	- - 14½d	- - 14½d
	Meat - - - per cwt. -	2 18 10	1 19 5½	2 9 7½	2 2 8½	2 19 6½
	Pork - - - per bushel -	- 5 9	- 5 -½	- 5 6	- 5 11	Sp'd Pork - 11 -
	Oatmeal - - - per bushel -	- 8 8½	- 8 6	- 8 3 - 15 6p/cwt.	- 17 -	- 17 6.
	Salt - - - per bushel -	- 19 4½	- 18 -	- 4 10	- 4 9	- 2 10
	Butter - - - per lb. -	- - 8½	- - 7½	- - 7½	- - 8½	- - 10½
	Cheese - - - per lb. -	- - 6	- - 5	- - 4	- - 4½	- - 5½
	Malt - - - per quarter	3 1 11	2 12 8½	2 19 11	3 2 1	3 11 10½
	Hops, per cwt. - - bags -	4 4 -	3 16 -	- - -	6 15 -	10 10 -
	- - - pockets -	3 12 -	3 10 -	9 19 -	7 5 -	10 - -
	Beer - - - per barrel -	- 12 10½	- 11 5½	- 12 5½	- 14 10½	- 16 6½
NECESSARIES.	Suits of clothes - - -	2 1 9	2 - 2½	1 19 11½	1 19 11½	2 - 8½
	Stockings - - - per pair -	- 9 8	- 2 5	- 2 2	- 2 1½	- 2 1½
	Linen for shirts, ¼ the - per yard -	- 1 4	- 1 2½	- 1 -	- 1 -	- 1 -
	Hats - - - each -	- 3 -	- 3 -	- 3 -	- 3 -	- 3 -
	Shoes - - - per pair -	- 4 3	- 4 9½	- 4 7½	- 4 9½	- 4 6
	Suits of Bedding, (viz. Bed, Bolster, Pillow, three Blankets, one Cover- let) - - - - -	2 19 10½	2 19 10½	2 19 10½	2 19 10½	2 19 10½
	Sea-coal - - - per chaldron	2 6 6	2 4 6½	2 6 7	2 3 8	2 3 2
	Candles - - - per doz. lbs.	- 7 1½	- 6 1½	- 5 6	- 5 6	- 6 -
	Mops - - - each -	- 1 4½	- 1 3½	- 1 2	- 1 1½	- 1 2½

Royal Hospital, Greenwich, }
December 31st, 1830. }

Chelms and Greenwich Hospitals, from 1795 to 1830—continued.

Necessaries at Greenwich Hospital—continued.

1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	REMARKS.
£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
2 4 2½	2 3 6½	2 5 6	2 15 10½	2 14 11	{ - - Average price by contract or otherwise. Since May 1825, supplied from His Majesty's Vintnall's Yard at Deptford.
- - 12½	- - 12½	- - 12½	- - 12½	- - 12½	{ Calculated on the price of flour and making into bread; 560 lbs. the produce of each sack.
2 17 8	2 15 4½	2 10 7½	2 6 3½	2 3 6	Average of two or three contracts yearly.
- 11 -	- 10 6	- 9 6	- 8 9	- 8 -	{ Average price, 1795 to 1825; subsequently the annual contract price.
- 19 -	1 5 -	- 18 6	- 18 6	- 16 11	- - - ditto.
- 1 10½	- 1 8	- 1 10	- 1 8	- 1 8	- - - ditto.
- - 9½	- - 8½	- - 8½	- - 8	- - 6½	{ Chiefly the average of two contracts to 1822, and one contract from that time.
- - 6½	- - 5½	- - 5½	- - 5	- - 4	- - - ditto.
3 5 1	3 4 10	3 1 7	3 1 10½	2 16 1½	Average price by contract or otherwise.
15 - -	- - -	No Supply.	- - -	No Receipt.	{ Price of each supply; chiefly in November and December.
15 5 -	4 10 -	- - -	4 10 -	- - -	
			5 9 6		
- 17 5½	- 13 8½	- 13 1	- 13 4	Not ascertained.	{ Brewed at the Hospital; cost price calculated annually.
2 1 6½	1 19 10½	1 16 1	1 18 6½	1 18 6½	Calculated on the cost of materials and making.
- 2 -½	- 1 10½	- 1 9½	- 1 9½	- 1 6½	Contract price, or average of two contracts.
- 1 -	- - 11½	- - 9½	- - 9½	- - 8	{ Contract price; formerly under a standing contract.
- 3 -	- 3 -	- 3 -	- 3 -	- 3 -	{ Including a Stamp Duty of 5d. in 1811. From 1825, supplied under one contract.
- 4 5	- 4 3½	- 4 3	- 3 9½	- 3 6	Contract price, or average of two contracts.
2 19 10½	2 8 3	2 5 9	2 5 9	1 17 10½	{ Contract price; formerly under a standing contract.
2 - 4	2 1 5½	2 - 8½	1 16 7	1 12 11	{ - - Calculated on the cost at Newcastle, freight, and charges to 1829. 1830 supplied by con- tract.
- 5 9½	- 5 10	- 5 10½	- 5 6½	- 5 3½	{ Formerly supplied at a discount on the market price; now by annual contract.
- 1 1½	- 1 1½	- 1 1	- 1 1½	- - 10½	{ Procured from the churchwardens of Greenwich to 1825; now by annual contract.

By Order of the Commissioners.

W^m H. Hooper, Secretary.J^m A. Leithbridge, Steward.

THIRD REPORT.

BY THE LORDS COMMITTEES appointed a SELECT COMMITTEE to consider of the POOR LAWS, and to report their Observations thereupon from Time to Time to the House;

ORDERED TO REPORT,

THAT the Committee have met, and think it expedient that the opinion of the Judges should be taken by the House on the following Questions :—

I. Does the 43d of Elizabeth, cap. 2., or any other law, authorize Magistrates to order any relief to be given to Poor Persons who are able to work, or to afford them any assistance, except by procuring some employment for them where employment can be obtained?

II. If it be satisfactorily proved that employment cannot be procured within a reasonable distance of the Parish to which able-bodied Poor belong, will the Magistrates in such case be authorized to order relief?

III. Where able-bodied Poor Persons can maintain only a part of their family by the wages of their labour, are Magistrates authorized to order any relief to be given to them for the maintenance of such of their children, not being able to work, as they cannot maintain?

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